

Sketch

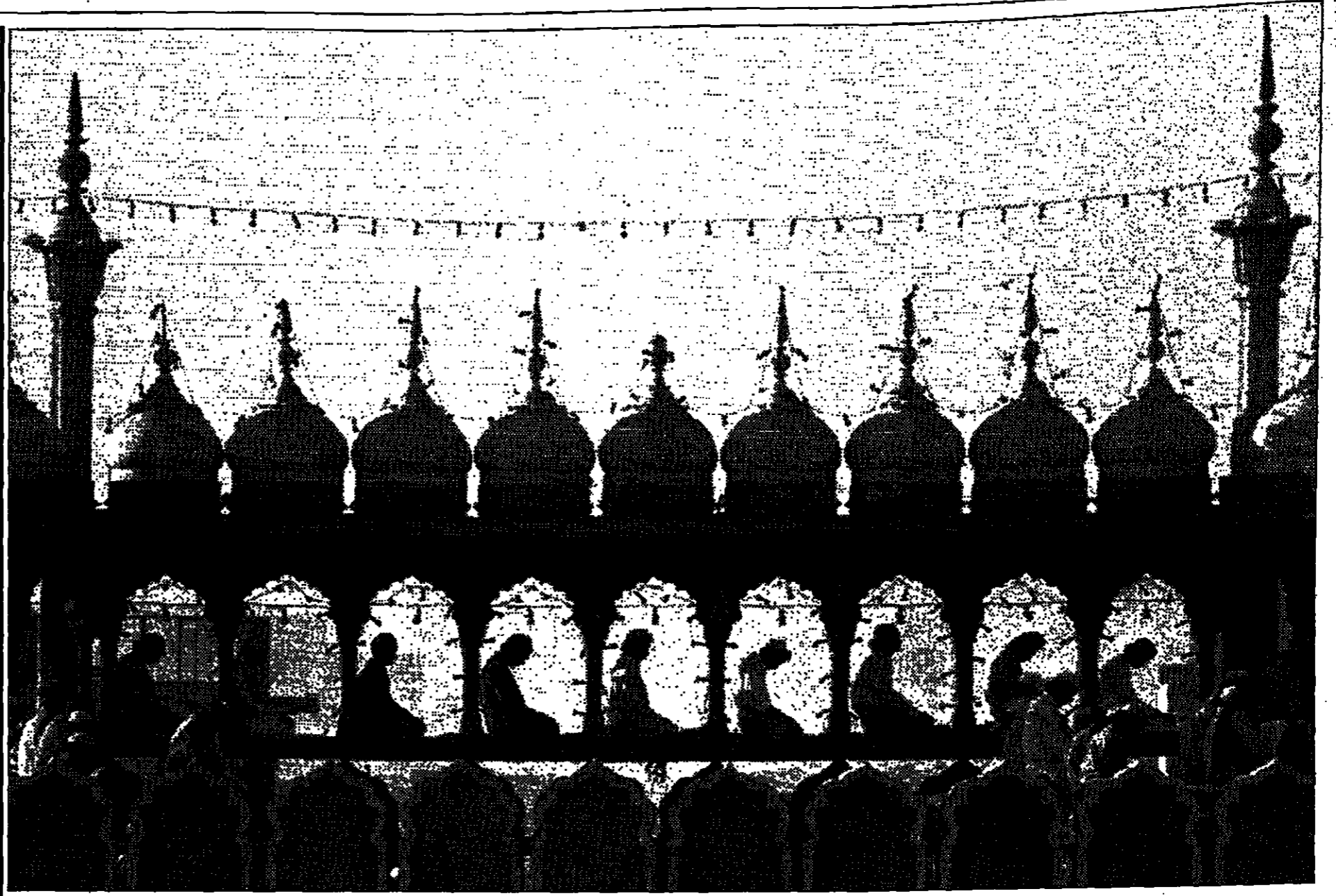
Stepford wife deserts House



Simon Hoggart

THE Tories had far too much to be happy about yesterday. They could pick either the Liberals' leaked document (in which the party accused itself of being "naive", "woolly" and "barmy"), or Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school. So the Conservatives were in the position of a fortunate dog, obliged to choose between gnawing a juicy bone or licking its private parts. Harriet Harman won. For one thing, the Liberals have always been naive and barmy. That's their charm. For another, there was the loud silence from Labour. Though the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, allowed two dozen interruptions to her speech, not one was in Ms Harman's defence. Nor was she herself present, as Tories were quick to point out. With his usual clod-hopping irony - it's like watching a hippo trying to tap dance - David Shaw (C. Dover) asked whether the order papers had been distributed since "people with an interest in grant-maintained schools are not present for this debate". Possibly she was advised not to show her face. Perhaps she had an unbreakable appointment. Either way, I suspect it was a mistake. When Dennis Skinner was assailed in the weekend press, he was first into the Chamber on Monday and scowled at everyone while sucking a gigantic mint. The story of his affair was dead in two days. Not turning up looks wimpish. It concedes your opponent's case by default. If she had appeared the Tories would have bayed and jeered, but they would secretly have admired her spunk. Labour MPs would have been obliged to support her. As it is, Ms Harman is paying the price for being a Step-

ford wife in the New Labour Party. She looks too smooth, too self-satisfied, too close to Mr Blair's middle-class ideal. There are those who suspect she was not born, but assembled in a lab by Peter Mandelson. Numerous Labour MPs are, behind their hands, delighted by her discomfiture. And like many people who are generally supposed to look good on television, she doesn't. Less obviously handsome women such as Mo Mowlam and Clare Short are treated more kindly by the camera because they are tough, funny and sincere. Even today, these count for more than high cheekbones. Tory after Tory denounced Ms Harman. Mrs Shephard echoed them by accusing her repeatedly of wanting "choice and diversity for herself, while removing them from everybody else". The Secretary of State would say this once more, then give way to a back-bencher. The back-bencher would find another form of words to say the same thing, whereupon Mrs Shephard would stand up and say it all over again. Labour tried vainly to divert her to other topics - had the Prime Minister said that church schools could opt out without asking parents? but nobody tackled Hattie. Until David Blunkett. He blamed everything on John Major, who had created messes for Mrs Shephard to clear up. "The Secretary of State is like a market gardener following with a dustpan a rag-and-bone man with a diarrhoeic horse." (He meant "diarrhoeic", but no doubt the braille is similar.) Then with solemn gravity he announced the official, flesh-and-blood defence. It went thus: "Every parent in every community, whether they are a member of Parliament or not, should have the right to exercise a preference for their child to go to the school of their choice. That preference should not be blocked by any mechanism." What does that mean? Who can say? There are some mysteries which it is not in our gift to know. But I suspect that if Ms Harman had been there to listen to the best in her defence, she might have felt distinctly ill.



World of prayer... Worshippers pray in the gallery of the main mosque in Delhi yesterday. Muslims began the fasting month of Ramadan on Sunday PHOTOGRAPH: SANIL MALHOTRA

Clarke widens Tory divisions on EMU

Backing for future publicity drive at odds with Foreign Office letter

John Palmer in Brussels

DIVISIONS within the Government over the European single currency widened yesterday when the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, threw his support behind proposals for a future pro-monetary union information campaign in Britain. He said that only internal political problems were preventing the campaign starting now.

Mr Clarke also underlined his differences with Tory Eurosceptics when he dismissed suggestions that monetary union would have to be delayed because of the slow-down in European economies. Earlier the Foreign Office minister, David Davis, had written to the European Commission opposing any attempt by it to launch a hard-sell promotion drive in Britain. The Commission is preparing a multi-million pound campaign to explain the advantages of the single currency to the public but never had any intention of unleashing it in Britain against the Government's wishes. Speaking after a meeting of EU finance ministers in Brussels, Mr Clarke played down any suggestion that London had vetoed the campaign. "It is a bit of a non-issue. The Commission had decided not to hold a campaign in the UK some time ago and I understand this was being confirmed today," he said. The Chancellor went on to imply that only the sensitivity of the single currency issue in Tory party politics was preventing a campaign being launched now. "There is a need for an information campaign in the UK... [but] at the moment we cannot have that debate," he declared. "Sooner or later there has to be that debate."

Talk in London that the UK had forced the Commission into a humiliating climbdown over a single currency promotion campaign, was described as "absolute rubbish" by Commission officials. Meanwhile, the British Conservative chairman of the European Parliament's budget committee, James Ellis, said yesterday that some £40 million had been earmarked this year for information campaigns on the single currency and European citizens' rights. "The European Parliament's aim is to work closely with the Commission on campaigns [providing] information for citizens on Europe... and the single currency," he said. Despite renewed speculation about a possible delay in the EMU timetable, an opinion poll showed clear overall public support for the proposed "euro". Carried out in all 15 countries after the Madrid summit last month, it shows 54 per cent in favour of a single currency and 37 per cent against, a marked improvement on last year. In Britain, however, 32 per cent of those polled were for and 54 per cent against. There is also concern that in Germany only 38 per cent are in favour although this is a slight increase compared with the previous poll three months ago. "We have a major task ahead to show our public that the single currency is necessary and in their interests," the economics commissioner, Yves Thibault de Silguy, told a conference of some 400 politicians, industrialists, consumers, trade unions and women's groups in Brussels.

Kohl tackles job crisis, page 6

Review

Follies caught in gold and bronze

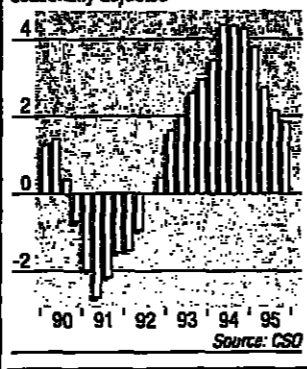
Rachel Barnes

Bill Woodrow Tate Gallery, London. BILL Woodrow's latest bronze and gold sculpture goes on show today five years after his last British exhibition. This is Woodrow's first major show since he broke decisively with the style that won him an international reputation as a leading figure in the New British sculpture. Following in the wake of Kurt Schwitters, and later Picasso, Woodrow's early work recycled junk consumer objects such as cars, televisions, washing machines and filing cabinets, which he transformed into intricate, exploring environmental issues. That is all over now. Woodrow, at 47, is a reconstructed nineties man, abandoning his recycled rubbish for costly, large-scale bronze sculptures, and he is now involved in two methodical, residing in steel and casting in bronze, which his generation had emphatically rejected. As the exhibition's title, Follies' Gold, suggests, Woodrow's theme has also changed to basic survival in a world that is corrupted and dominated by money. Follies' Gold is deliberately suggestive of the National Lottery and the folly of allowing financial ambitions to rule our lives. A sculpted head entitled Moneyman, which has gold pieces embedded in stone face and skull, plays with this theme. Another to do so is In Awe Of The Pawnbroker, a 30-ft piece created from five giant rings chained together, each

on its own cushion and each holding a small sculpture. The idea was inspired by the beauty of the pawnbroker's sign, which I see around south London," he said. "It then began to represent for me this whole issue of the precariousness of survival." In his Self-Portraits from 1989, Woodrow depicts an emaciated, fragile figure, caught in a jigsaw of bronze pieces. Gold coins refer to the continuing problem for the artist to make a living. The centrepiece is a huge spire, God Knows, cast in bronze and adorned with ropes and bells that have fallen to the ground. The weathervane on top has become a vast pair of scissors. It is a magical poetic piece perfectly suited to the Tate's Octagon, for which Woodrow planned it. As with much of his work, the inspiration was initially visual, but he uses the spire to question the outcome of a society with material values to the point of religious fanaticism. The ultimate meaning is elusive. Woodrow teases and provokes. My enthusiasm for Woodrow's achievement does not extend to the unnecessarily outsculpting artwork of John Burt Foster's essay. Its inaccessibility is strangely at odds with the immediacy and vitality of the work. This is a mixed show, some sculptures conveying Woodrow's thoughts and ideologies more forcibly than others. But the artist's rich imagination gives each work an individual power. God Knows is the undoubted masterpiece, possibly of Woodrow's oeuvre to date. For this alone, it is worth going to the Tate.

Stalled manufacturing cuts growth to 3-year low

Slowing economy GDP % change on a year earlier, seasonally adjusted



Richard Thomas

HOPES of further cuts in interest rates rose yesterday after government data showed a stalled manufacturing sector and recession on construction sites had dragged economic growth to a three-year low. Only the growing service sector is boosting the economy as factories are hit by weaker export demand from the continent and building firms continue to suffer from a subdued housing market, according to data from the Central Statistical Office.

The CSO said the annual rate of economic expansion had fallen to 1.8 per cent in the last three months of 1995, down from 2.1 per cent in the previous quarter, and the lowest level since the first three months of 1993. During 1995 the economy is estimated to have expanded by 2.6 per cent, compared to November's budget forecast of 2.75 per cent. City analysts said the gloomy figures vindicated the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke's decision last week to cut the cost of borrowing by 0.25 percentage points to 6.25 per cent, and shortened the odds on more policy loosening over the next few months. Simon Briscoe, an economist at Nikko Europe, said: "These figures show this is more than just a growth pause. If there is any more evidence of industrial weakness, people will be calling for an immediate cut." He said the markets had already factored in another 0.25 percentage point cut before March. But other economists said the economy could pick up again during 1996, with some of the manufacturing weakness explained by firms running down plentiful stocks. The Labour leader Tony Blair said: "Given the fact that Britain over 15 or 16 years has gone from 13th in the world league table of prosperity down to 18th under the Conservatives, this emphasises yet again the importance of taking action to improve the underlying economic and industrial strength of the economy." The CSO confirmed that industrial activity remained flat between October and November, partly because the

mild weather reduced demand for fuel supplies. The economy grew by 0.4 per cent in the last quarter, the CSO said. Excluding oil and gas, the rate of expansion was also 0.4 per cent. The annual pace of growth was 1.7 per cent. Treasury officials insisted that growth was better than many economists had expected, and that the prospects for hitting the forecast 3 per cent expansion in 1996 were good.

Trucker fined £2,000 over hit-and-run death

Lawrence Donegan

AN AUSTRIAN lorry driver was fined £2,000 yesterday after he admitted driving away from an accident in which a newspaper delivery girl was knocked off her bicycle and killed. Herbert Lagler, aged 25, pleaded guilty to three charges in connection with the death of 15-year-old Amy Durling, who died on the A269 near her home in Kent last Thursday. Mr Lagler, of Brakrau, Austria, was fined £730 for failing to stop after the accident, £750 for failing to report it and £500 for careless driving. Magistrates at Canterbury ordered him to be detained until the fines were paid. Amy, of Greenhill, Herne Bay, was killed when she was hit by Mr Lagler's 40-tonne truck as she was attempting to negotiate a roundabout near her home in morning commuter traffic. Kevin Malony, prosecuting, told the court the accident happened 30 minutes before sunrise. "She was observing the correct procedure, she had the right of way and was signalling to leave the roundabout," he said. "Whilst crossing the roundabout at low speed the defendant's vehicle struck the rear wheel of the bicycle."



Mr Malony said the girl's bicycle became entangled in the underside of the truck. It was impossible to say whether the defendant had known a collision had taken place, he said. The court was told Mr Lagler, who had arrived in Britain earlier that day, stopped his vehicle several hundred yards away and inspected the underside. He removed the wreckage of the bicycle before driving away. He was arrested later that day in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, where he told police that he was unaware that any accident had taken place. Tim Townsend, defending, said Mr Lagler had suffered a momentary loss of concentration. "The first he was aware of this accident was when he heard a rumbling noise under the cab of his vehicle," he said. "Having heard a noise he pulled over a safe distance from the roundabout and that's when he looked under the cab and found the bicycle."

Jupiter probe confounds Nasa on beginnings

Continued from page 1

130,000 miles above the planet. Just as they prepared to announce their tentative triumph, the budget war between congress and the administration abruptly shut down the entire operation: the scientists were deemed to be "on furlough" and could release no data. This, too, was frustrating: Nasa's research budget about to be reviewed, and its scientists had a coup on their hands. Paul Murdin, head of astronomy for Britain's Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, said: "If you take what happens on Earth, and extrapolate that out to Jupiter, you expect the Sun to drive the winds. The ground gets hot, air rises, and causes winds to blow. Out at Jupiter, there is much less sunlight, so you expect the winds to be weaker," he said. "Why are they stronger? This has something to do with radioactive decay processes deep inside the planet. I think it is fascinating to find a meteorology in the universe that depends on heating from the inside, rather than on top."



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Charity warns that water meters threaten basic health of poor

Lawrence Donegan

FAMILIES on low incomes could suffer increased health problems as a result of living in houses which are water-metered, a children's charity said yesterday. Save the Children said the compulsory introduction of metering in newly-built homes was putting pressure

on the poorest families to save on water supplies essential to basic health and hygiene. In a survey of low income households on estates, the charity found families in metered homes were paying 4 per cent of their weekly budget on water, four times the national average, and warned the water industry and Government against sanctioning the widespread use of meters.

سكان الراجل



Sharon Stone: best actress award for Casino 'a miracle'



Britain's Emma Thompson with her award for Sense and Sensibility PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF HAYNES

Who got what

Table listing winners of the Golden Globe motion picture awards of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. Categories include Drama, Musical or comedy, Actor, Actress, Supporting actor, Supporting actress, Director, and Original screen play.

Award for Thompson's Hollywood sensibility

'I worked from 7 till 10 and then took a break to drink a little tea and weep, and then I worked for another three hours'

Emma Thompson on the adaptation of Austen which won her a Golden Globe

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

BRITISH actress Emma Thompson has added a screenplay adaptation, Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility, to her Hollywood laurels at the Golden Globe Awards.

public is tired of bad taste." Ms Thompson, who won an acting Oscar for Howard's End in 1993, charmed her audience with a sophisticated parody of Austen's dry style.

film, the Globe's sponsors, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, have an influence higher than usual as precursors of the Academy's Oscar night. This year the Globe awards were seen by 100 million television viewers worldwide.

actor award as the death-wish alcoholic in Leaving Las Vegas was Nicholas Cage. "It's a storybook dream come true," he said.

any does not. This time it went to one of the year's most beguiling films, Babe, an Australian-made story about a sheep-herding piglet.

Police bit and kicked Nigerian

Asylum seeker 'had 45 injuries' when he died after drugs arrest

Owen Bowcott

TWO police officers who arrested a Nigerian asylum-seeker for possessing crack cocaine bit him, kicked him twice in the head and gripped him in a necklock during their struggle to hold him at St Pancras court yesterday.

gave evidence on the first day of the hearing into Mr Lapite's death, and were asked by the coroner, Dr Stephen Chan, to explain the "gross disparities" in their injuries compared to "that of the deceased".

could only be broken by kicking Mr Lapite in the head "as hard as I could," PC McCallum said.

biting me." PC Wright said he tried to hold Mr Lapite down while he radioed for assistance.

Diamonds — alluvial and maritime — are the lure and the stories are legion; of the fabled Cuango Valley, financing Unita's war against the Angolan government to the tune of an estimated \$30 million a month; and of Catoca, reputed to be the biggest diamond-bearing vein in the world...

David Beresford page 7

Welcome for 'partnership politics' with Lib Dems

Blair picks up the Ashdown gauntlet

Michael White Political Editor

TONY Blair moved quickly last night to welcome Paddy Ashdown's call for "partnership politics" in which Labour and the Liberal Democrats would work together to implement a "millennium modernisation" of Britain which will take more than one parliament — and more than one party.

could do in a globalised economy and accepted it would take years to "restore trust in government" after 17 Tory years. He called for a Great Reform Bill to clean up the political "mess" with a referendum on proportional representation. Change would not be achievable in a single parliament, "nor, I believe, by a single party".

packet" calculations would not do. The structure would have to be stronger. "I simply do not believe that such a structure can be built on the narrow foundations of a single party".

Newt plots with Redwood

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

LIKE old Bolsheviks plotting the overthrow of the world, John Redwood and Newt Gingrich huddled together in a global summit of "revolutionary political leaders" in Washington yesterday — all that was missing was a chorus of the Internationale.

"Revolutionary Politics in a Democratic Society". "So many conservatives meeting to discuss revolution," marvelled the erstwhile Vulcan.

Leninist, if not Robespierre-like, he declared: "Government has to be brought to answer at the bar of the court of the people."

Advertisement for the new £5 coin. Text: 'Britain's new £5 coin will cost you nothing. £5 for £5'. Includes images of the coin and the Royal Mint logo.

Advertisement for the new £5 coin. Text: 'Struck by the Royal Mint. Legal tender to spend or save. Now you can own Britain's new legal tender £5 coin, issued to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's 70th Birthday.' Includes an order coupon form.

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News in brief

Scott inquiry legal aid bill nears £1m

THE bill for legal aid for the nine ministers and senior civil servants questioned in the Scott "arms to Iraq" inquiry has neared £1 million, the Government has disclosed in Parliamentary answers to Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West. The most expensive legal bill has been the £318,165 spent by the Foreign Office to provide legal aid to, among others, William Waldegrave, the minister of state, who contested leaked draft findings by Sir Richard Scott last year. Other ministers covered by the bill include former foreign secretary Douglas Hurd, and ex-minister Tristan Garel-Jones.

Supermarket murder charge

A MAN is to be charged with murder following the death of one of 10 people injured in a supermarket stabbing. Tommy McGregor, aged 65, died on Sunday after being stabbed as he walked from his home in Small Heath, Birmingham, to a bank on December 29 last year. A police spokesman said the 22-year-old son of Small Heath, would now be charged with murder. He had already been charged with 10 counts of attempted murder and two of attempted rape to cause grievous bodily harm following the incident at the Netto supermarket.

Britain fights EU on beef

BRITAIN last night backed US demands that beef from cattle treated with hormones should be allowed into the European Union, despite the opposition of all 14 other member states. The move, taken by Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, at an EU ministerial council meeting in Brussels put the Government out of step with the other members who are fighting to retain the ban on hormone-treated meat, originally imposed throughout western Europe in 1987. The US is threatening to take the EU to the World Trade Organisation under the Gatt world trade agreement to force it to admit its hormone-injected meat, backed by scientific evidence that the meat is safe to eat. The hormones are used to promote rapid growth and meat with less surplus fat. — Stephen Bates

Bodies found in van

THE Police Complaints Authority is to investigate the deaths of two men who were found yesterday in a van in a river in Cambridgeshire. Police had been informed that the van was in the river on Sunday but it was not removed until the following morning. According to the PCA, a man telephoned the police on Sunday to say he had seen a Ford Transit van in the Twenty Foot River near Coates while he had been fishing. A police officer attended the scene and contacted the van hire firm to which the vehicle belonged. The officer was unable to contact the company to which it had been hired. The deaths are not being treated as suspicious. — Duncan Campbell

Grecian faces hearing

PAUL Grecian, the former arms dealer and informant for British intelligence now wanted by the US authorities, was told by a South African court yesterday that he will have to face an extradition hearing. Mr Grecian, aged 40, who tipped off Whitehall about the Iraqi "supergun" project, was arrested last month by Interpol agents on a US warrant when he arrived in South Africa for a Christmas holiday with his fiancée Elizabeth Powell. He is wanted in the US on charges of bank fraud and trying to sell American artillery fuse components to Iraq. He was acquitted of similar charges in Britain in November after the evidence — previously suppressed by the Government — showed that Whitehall had turned a blind eye to British arms being shipped to Iraq via Jordan in breach of export controls. Mr Grecian faces a possible 35-year jail sentence in the United States if convicted. — Richard Norton-Taylor

'Too busy' doctor apologises

A DOCTOR who examined the body of a patient in a crowded public car park, after telling undertakers he was "too busy" to travel to them has been involved in two similar incidents in the past, the funeral firm disclosed yesterday Monday. A spokesman for the Co-operative Funeral Service said that on both occasions they had been forced to bring a body to the surgery of Hamid Latif at Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, because he was unwilling to follow the normal procedure of travelling to their chapel of rest. The revelation came as the doctor, after initially blaming both his recognition and the undertakers for the situation, issued a statement in which he offered "heartfelt and unreserved apologies" over the incident last Monday. — Alan Watkins

Educationists join selective school row • Local authorities pledge to scrap system

Loyalty lecture for Harman

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

THE row in the Parliamentary Labour Party over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selection-based grant maintained grammar school found echoes among teachers, education officials and local authorities yesterday. One of the party's respected figures, David Donnison, a member of the Plowden Committee in the 1960s, wrote to Tony Blair and Ms Harman to point out that politicians' choice of school for their children had not always been regarded as a private matter. Professor Donnison, of Glasgow University, said: "You cannot expect members of a movement to be loyal to you if you are not loyal to the things they think the move-

ment stands for." In the 1960s he had felt bound to send his children to comprehensive schools in Islington, north London. [They went on to Oxford and Sussex universities.] "As an active member of the Plowden Committee and chairman of the Public Schools Commission, I felt myself to be part of a larger movement working to create good educational opportunities for every child and to obtain selective schools and the 11-plus exam which had blighted the lives of so many youngsters," he said. "We believed that commitment, like other public commitments, was something we had to try to live by. So we sent our children to local comprehensive schools. To do otherwise would have been hypocrisy."

Local authorities — now overwhelmingly Labour controlled — reiterated the pledge by David Blunkett, the party's education spokesman, to end selection at the remaining 160 grammar schools in England. Graham Lane, education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, called Ms Harman's decision "unfortunate". "Once schools could no longer opt out of town hall control, authorities like Bromley, south London, would move to end selection. Although grant maintained schools like St Olave's and St Saviour's, the Bromley borough school chosen by Ms Harman, would retain "foundation" status, their admissions policies would have to be agreed with the local authority. "I look forward to opening new comprehensives in Bromley in 1996. The lad will see the school being reorga-

nised while he is there and will see the benefits of comprehensive education at first hand," Mr Lane said. Teachers in the inner London borough of Southwark, whose schools Ms Harman and her husband, Jack Dromey, a senior trade union official, seemed anxious to escape, were incensed. "We would have hoped she would have been able to show her commitment to Southwark schools," said Tim Harrison, regional official of the National Union of Teachers. "She has used her knowledge of the system. Southwark teachers will be disappointed. They would have welcomed the opportunity for closer contact with their MP as a parent." Mr Harrison said teachers were concerned about the pressures selection put on children in boroughs like Bromley which still had

grammar schools. "The one you don't hear about are the children who are not going to succeed but their parents believe they can if they push them hard enough." Doug McAvooy, general secretary of the union, expressed strong support for Gerry Steinberg, MP for Durham City, who resigned as chairman of the party's education committee. "Should the Labour Party move away from the clear policy commitment made by shadow education secretary, David Blunkett, against selection of any kind, the union will be totally opposed."

Selective memories

"We oppose any return to selection through the 11-plus." Labour Party — Diversity and Excellence, 1995.

"No selection... under a Labour government." David Blunkett, 1995.

"I am not going to make a choice for my child on the basis of what is politically correct." Tony Blair, December 1994.

"We sent our children to comprehensives. To do otherwise would have been hypocrisy." David Donnison, Labour chair of Public Schools Commission.

"We would have hoped she would have shown her commitment to Southwark schools." Tim Harrison, NUT official.



Knife in the back... Kingsdale, the nearest school for Ms Harman's son, lost pupils in the publicity which followed a stabbing PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Parents' dilemma blamed on open enrolment policy

High ability children creamed off under system

Martin Linton on borough's failings

COUNCIL leaders in the south London borough of Southwark, where Harriet Harman is an MP, blamed her dilemma on an open enrolment system which is stripping their comprehensive schools of higher ability children. They say parents are going further and further out into the suburbs in their search for schools with normal intakes of able children because of the combined effect of assisted places, open enrolment and selection.

The chairwoman of the education committee, Anne Worsley, refused to criticise either parents or their local MP, saying she was only doing "what the system has driven her to do". Ms Worsley defended the achievements of her hard-pressed inner-city comprehensive schools, but admitted that they have been left near the bottom of the pile.

The problem starts in the south of the borough, where three independent schools created some of the most able children on assisted places. Then the selective schools in the outer London boroughs, such as St Olave's where the Harman's are sending their child, skim off another inch of the cream. The fight into the outer suburbs used to be limited by the fact that Bromley schools gave priority to children from their own catchment areas.

Open enrolment has ended all that. Schools are now legally obliged to take any child who meets their admission criteria and grant maintained schools will not disqualify children because of where they live.

St Olave's is far removed from the normal, average state under-funded comprehensive

Sarah Boseley on Harman's selection

AN Old Slavonian can hold his head up in the most privileged of drawing-rooms. Few would guess that he had not been educated at one of Britain's top public schools. In academic education, sport and music, St Olave's competes directly with the big names of the independent sector. A state school it may be, but its 400-year-old traditions have the same roots as the likes of Merchant Taylors, Haberdashers and other ancient and once philanthropic institutions now seen by some as bastions of privilege for those who can pay.

Nominally a Church of England school, it is voluntary-aided by the state, but the spacious buildings, swimming pool, 20 acres of playing fields and first-class facilities — for just 665 pupils — betray how far removed it is from the under-funded state comprehensive norm. Like many ancient public schools, it is backed by a charitable foundation, which includes the Bishop of Rochester, the Council of Special Trustees of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals and the Estates Governors of Alleyn's College of God's Gift in Dulwich.

Representatives of all these institutions, which have historical links to the school, administer a sizeable fund although, according to one governor, it is "not as much money as the lively companies endowed schools with hundreds of years ago". Almost all parents contribute financially by co-financing money to the school's parents' association — a registered charity which donates to the school fund. There are grants available for boys in financial need and also travel and university awards.

All pupils are expected to take part in extra-curricular activities during their lunch-hours and after school. A third of them have instrumental tuition which is available on "almost any instrument", most of which can be borrowed for a nominal charge from the school.

St Olave's and St Saviour's, with which it later amalgamated, were established in Elizabethan times at the southern end of London Bridge thanks to public subscription by the people of Southwark for the education of the "children and younglings" of the parish. After several moves around the grime and smoke of south London, the school departed for the greenery of Kent in 1968.

Latin is compulsory from the first year for the fortunate 90 pupils out of around 600 who are successful in the November entrance tests, which some parents use as a dry run for the independent school exams in January or February. There is no interview. The tests cover "aspects of Reasoning, English and Mathematics", says the prospectus, which warns parents to bear in mind that they are academically demanding. The maths is "broadly in line with the National Curriculum Level 4". Boys are expected to understand such concepts as simple fractions and decimals, simple perimeter, area and volume.

The school is particularly strong in maths and science. Last year 20 out of 37 boys who took maths A-level got grade A. Ten took further mathematics, and five gained grade A. Fifteen out of 33 physics candidates were awarded grade A. Most boys go on to university — all but one last year — with 11 going to Oxford or Cambridge.

Storm delights Scargill

Martin Wainwright on a byelection gift for the Socialist Labour Party

PARTY member 64 of Britain's newest political force last night, buoyed up by a red-faced day for New Labour. "The whole thing's consistent with their ditching of our beliefs, ditching of common ownership, ditching of socialism," said Arthur Scargill, as the Hemsworth byelection campaign absorbed the hot topic of Harman junior's place of education.



Arthur Scargill with Brenda Nixon PHOTOGRAPH: DON MCPHEE

"One law for shadow cabinet ministers, one law for the rest of us," said member 64, Brenda Nixon, the Socialist Labour Party's first parliamentary candidate. "Telling us not to do it, but then doing it themselves anyway." The selective education fiasco was a gift for the SLP pioneers trying to stir the solid Labour pudding in the West Yorkshire seat. The byelection follows the death

last year of Derek Enright, who had a 20,000 majority. Voting in the former mining area will be on February 1. Mrs Nixon, a miner's wife who campaigned in the women's pit support groups, was not sympathetic with the outrage in New Labour over the Harman affair. "What did they expect?" she said, to murmurs of approval from Mr Scargill, the SLP's agent in Hemsworth. "They have no call to be surprised. It's entirely typical of the way New Labour is going under the leadership of Tony Blair."

"They voted this on themselves at last September's conference. They decided that it was all right for Tony Blair to send his son to a grant maintained school which selects by interview. So why the shock about Harriet Harman?"

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09/11/2015

Bottomley rule change as jackpot criticism mounts Lottery rethink to aid stars of future

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

NATIONAL Lottery cash is to be used to promote future British Olympic contestants and develop artistic talent, Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary announced yesterday.

In an attempt to stifle criticism of the lottery, under fire for its second £40 million-plus jackpot in three weeks, she said rule changes on the way funds are distributed would focus on nurturing young arts and sports talent.

For the first time, the bodies which make lottery grants will be allowed to invest in individuals and revenue-spending, rather than just capital projects.

The changes will allow:
□ The Sports Council to develop talent funds for young



Bottomley... 'I want lottery funds invested in people'

athletes, with extra support for coaching, help for future Olympic contestants and funding for one-off sporting events.

□ The Arts Council to help young people develop artistic skills by giving schools assis-

tance to attend theatrical productions, encourage arts organisations to visit parts of the country they would not otherwise tour and make funds available for new productions of some plays and musical compositions.

□ The National Heritage Memorial Fund to consider applications from building preservation trusts.

Mrs Bottomley insisted the lottery was a stunning success, making 4,600 awards totalling almost £1 billion, which had rejuvenated cultural life.

But she added: "I want to see lottery funds invested directly in people and their future, particularly the young. The lottery should allow us to invest in our nation's human potential as well as its buildings."

The move aims to head off criticism that the lottery has concentrated on elitist causes and ignored ordinary people.

She said: "We want youngsters to have a stake in society. This is what stakeholding is really about — giving youngsters individual fulfilment. Maybe lottery money will help create the award winners of the future. We want lottery athletes to win — we are going for gold."

The distributing bodies have until February to respond to the proposals, expected to be implemented by April. The Arts Council and Sports Council would decide the size of talent awards and how they were implemented.

Mrs Bottomley defended Saturday's anticipated £40 million lottery jackpot, denying it was creating a culture of greed. Speaking on GMTV, she said: "Nine out of 10 play tickets has become a national pastime and what I am interested in... is even more ways we can spend the money on good causes."

Sports Council delight at cash backing for individual athletes

VIRGINIA Bottomley could hardly have timed her lottery announcement better for the world of sport, writes John Duncan.

As sport's top administrators met the Sports Council in London yesterday to discuss a future British Olympic Association report, the lottery cash is a godsend to those elite competitors the lottery can now assist directly.

Anita White, the council's director of national services, said: "Sports bodies have been telling us it's all very well building new facilities but the athletes concentrate on training what is the point?"

"The announcement is great news."

Tom Pendry, shadow sports minister, added: "As long as the Government has accepted... that to be successful on the international stage we need to back individual competitors."

Indeed, a 1993 British Olympic Association report showed 45 per cent of one Olympic athletes were at least £5,000 in debt, and 84 per cent felt their potential restricted by lack of money.

The academy remains the Government's big idea for elite performers, and the Sports Council will announce its format next month, after consulting sports bodies, with a location identified by September.

Peer foils move to lop £5m off arts budget

Michael Ellison
Arts Correspondent

LORD Gowrie, the former Conservative minister in charge of giving taxpayers' cash to the arts, has outflanked an attempt by the Government to cut £5 million off the budget for museums, theatres, opera houses and arts centres, it emerged yesterday.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said late last year that the Arts Council, which distributes grants, was to get £186 million for 1996/97, a cut of £5 million or 2.7 per cent.

But the peer, who is chairman of the council, delayed by more than a month, until Thursday, decisions on who would get what from the grant and called the cut "damaging and irrational".

And yesterday Mrs Bottomley said £2.3 million would be returned to the council in payment for its work on lottery applications. "It's only



Lord Gowrie... attacked 'damaging and irrational' cut

right they should be able to charge the lottery for what they're doing. They've done a fantastic job in the last year."

Dennis Marks, general director of the English National Opera, said: "I know the council has done nothing but go into huddles with the Department of National Heritage for the last month, with

Lord Gowrie and Mary Allen (the council's secretary-general) looking for means of restoring the cut."

A council spokesman said: "I have no particular comment about that."

This is the second year Lord Gowrie has used his influence and access to ministers to lobby for the arts that seemed likely. Last year, his first in the job, he won £5.2 million more after talking pessimistically about consolidation.

The Arts Council has distributed for the award worth £232.7 million in lottery money, which is separate from its government grant.

Mr Marks welcomed Mrs Bottomley's announcement yesterday that rules for giving lottery money would be shared, although it will be a year before anyone receives anything from the talent fund or the stability fund, designed to give one-off grants to arts organisations in financial difficulties or a period of transition.

Fraud task force urged

MPs seek to stop bogus asylum claims for social security cash

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

AS SOCIAL security anti-fraud task force was urged to "weed out criminal fraudsters" exploiting asylum laws, an all-party group of MPs said yesterday.

While the Commons social security committee backed government concern about the growing number of bogus asylum claims, the MPs were deeply divided over the decision to withdraw welfare benefits from February 5 from thousands of would-be refugees.

The Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley produced limited concessions 10 days ago to defuse an incipient Tory backbench revolt over

the decision, first announced at the Conservative Party conference, which could lead to thousands of asylum-seekers becoming destitute. The Commons will be asked to approve the amended changes in debate tonight.

Frank Field, Labour chairman of the social-security committee, argued yesterday that a special task force was needed to make clear the scale of fraud perpetrated by gangs making bogus asylum claims. The Government needed to know the "true size" of the numbers seeking asylum, he said.

The MPs' report acknowledged that Mr Lilley's concessions removed the "possible danger of a sudden increase in homelessness" caused by the proposals, which are designed to save £200 million a

year. But the "basic policy intentions were not changed".

However the MPs' report was nowhere near as critical as that from the Government's own advisers, the Social Security Advisory Committee, who warned that some of the most vulnerable people in society would be made destitute.

The MPs say that Whitehall should for now bill its advance to pay for the extra burden on local authorities who have to provide temporary accommodation to homeless asylum-seekers and protect the children and families of asylum-seekers in need.

Mr Field said he personally doubted that withdrawing benefits would actually save the Treasury any money.

Two Labour MPs on the committee, Jeremy Corbyn and Alan Howarth, dissociated themselves from the report, arguing that it gave undue emphasis to the abuses in the system. "It fails to stress the hardship and suffering that the Government's proposals will cause," said Mr Howarth, who defected from the Conservative Party last year.

Emergency aid material designed for third world refugee camps will be seen on British streets for the first time next month to cope with the expected flood of homeless asylum-seekers, writes Alex Bell.

Orfam is to donate plastic sheeting to provide waterproofing and insulation protection to those sleeping rough. It is also giving 27,000 of national lottery money to the Refugee Council to help start a night shelter.



Superintendent Pat Wing of Birmingham with a selection of weapons surrendered in the Midlands during the amnesty

Amnesty on street knives 'a success'

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

NEARLY 40,000 knives were handed in to police during a month long amnesty, it was announced yesterday. Changes in the law on carrying knives are certain to follow, with calls yesterday for a ban on their sale to children under 16.

During the amnesty, which came in the wake of the death of the London headmaster, Philip Lawrence, at least 37,600 weapons were dumped in bins outside police stations. They included butterfly knives, hacksaw blades, knuckle-dusters, and coshes.

Staffordshire police reported the highest figure — 4,404 — but this was inflated by a shopkeeper who had handed in his entire stock of sheath knives. Reg Lindop, aged 72, who owns a hardware store in Stoke-on-Trent, gave police 3,000 knives because he did not want a death on his conscience, he said.

Kent and Norfolk have yet to report figures.

Yesterday Maria Wallis, the assistant constable of Sussex, who co-ordinated the amnesty on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said that the amnesty had been a great success. The fact that so many knives were off the streets meant that many crimes may have been prevented.

The amnesty was only the beginning in the fight against a knife culture. Too many young people carried knives for self-defence.

"We must start getting the message to young people that it is not macho to carry knives. We are trying to change the knife culture which suggests to young men in particular that they need to

carry a blade." The Home Secretary also applauded the amnesty, sponsored by the Daily Mirror.

Mr Howard said: "I heartily applaud the sustained efforts of ACPO and the media up and down the country to stamp out the threat of knives. The result of the amnesty is that there are around 40,000 fewer chances of getting hurt from dangerous knives. The overwhelming response bears strong testament to the will of many of us to rid this country of violence."

"The Government is acting to toughen up the law and penalties against the thugs who carry dangerous weapons. A bill sponsored by Lady Olga Maitland (the Offensive Weapons Bill) will be debated in Parliament later this week. It has our full support.

"The message to the thug is clear: if you are carrying a knife expect the full force of the law to come down on you." The bill proposes up to two years in jail for people carrying knives without good reason.

The shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, called for a ban on the sale of knives. Such controls should include a ban on the sale of knives to people under the age of 16 statutory powers to control the advertising of knives by mail order and the display of military-style knives, prescription of military-style knives and warning labels on all knives telling their purchasers of the penalties for carrying them illegally.

Some police officers have privately expressed reservations, saying that no serious criminal would hand in their weapons and that such exercises can be time-consuming for the police.

Cardinal's tribute to murdered head teacher

Angella Johnson at the Westminster Cathedral mass for Philip Lawrence

"A GOOD family man, selflessly dedicated to the concerns and needs of other people, even to the point of being prepared to die for it."

With these words the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, praised the life and work of murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence at a memorial Mass at Westminster Cathedral yesterday.

Cardinal Hume said Mr Lawrence — stabbed last

December as he went to the aid of a pupil outside his school in west London — embodied St Paul's description of "one who responds to Christ's command to love our neighbour as ourselves".

He said he had been shocked at the wanton killing of a man "whom we instinctively knew to be not only good at his job, but a man who inspired confidence and affection, a good man." The cathedral was full almost to its 1,600

capacity as friends, colleagues, pupils and well-wishers joined the Lawrence family.

His widow Frances sat with her daughters Maroushka, 21, Myfanwy, 17, Unity, 13, and son Lucien, eight. They heard how an outstanding man was taken at the height of his achievement.

Mrs Lawrence read from St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, while Unity showed her friends a diamond engagement ring that Mrs Lawrence had given her.

"Please help us to pray for my daddy... we pray for those who miss him so very, very much, and who

weep as Mary our Mother weep when she waited at the foot of the Cross."

Mr Lawrence died 10 days before Christmas after going to protect a pupil outside St George's Roman Catholic School, Maidstone, Kent. A 15-year-old boy has been charged with his murder and another aged 14 with conspiracy to wound a 14-year-old boy.

Pupils, staff and governors set in motion their own initiatives including the Duchess of Kent and Home Secretary, Michael Howard. During his homily, Cardinal Hume said parents were the most important influence on a

young person's character and schools could rarely succeed where parents failed. "If we lament, and rightly so, violence on our streets and much else that is wrong, then let our society look to the quality of family life in the nation, and to the serious commitment which the marriage bond should be."

He concluded that Mr Lawrence's greatest memorial was in his own "four lovely children" and the example of his bravery and selfless devotion to the care of the children entrusted to him, which has touched and inspired a nation.

Inquiry call as girl, 13, 'marries'

Alan Watkins

POLICE and social services launched an investigation last night about the parents of a 13-year-old Essex girl said they had allowed her to go through a marriage ceremony in Turkey.

All the county care agencies expressed their concern over the welfare of Sarah Cook from Braintree who is said to be living with the family of Musa Komeage, an 18-year-old unemployed waiter.

But the Turkish authorities saying doubt over the issue by theory that the ceremony was

little more than a religious blessing with no validity either in Turkey or Britain.

A spokesman at the Turkish embassy in London said that because of the age of the girl the ceremony was not valid as a marriage. "Our understanding is that this was a purely religious ceremony."

Essex police warned the family that they were taking legal advice to see whether any British law had been contravened and the director of Essex social services, Mike Leadbetter, said he was "deeply shocked" to learn that the girl apparently had parental approval.

In their account to the Sun,

Sarah's parents, Jackie, aged 39, and Adrian, 42, a welder, told how Sarah met Musa when she was only 12 during a holiday at the resort of Alanya last June. When Sarah returned to school she showed her friends a diamond engagement ring that Musa had given to her.

She was "so love sick" that she stayed away from school for six weeks and ran up a £3,500 phone bill calling Musa up to five times a day in October she persuaded them to let her fly to Turkey on her own for six weeks. They had flown out for the ceremony.

At least some of the social agencies had known about the situation since late last

year but felt themselves powerless. The county education authority has been sending school books to Sarah, living in the remote township of Kahramanmaraş in an attempt to persuade her to continue her education.

Teachers and staff at the Tabor high school became alarmed when Sarah failed to return to school in September. The head teacher Richard Snelling said: "She is only a 13-year-old child and I would not describe her as particularly mature."

Mr Leadbetter said: "It appears that, as the relationship apparently has the approval of her mother and father, there is little we can do."

Ofsted issues a warning on 'too small' sixth forms

John Curvel
Education Editor

HUNDREDS of secondary schools with small sixth forms of fewer than 125 students were in danger of failing to provide a broad enough choice of subjects at A level and its vocational equivalent, senior inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education said yesterday.

Thirty per cent of state school sixth forms had fewer than 100 pupils and 57 per cent had fewer than 150. Their head teachers and governors deserved proper guidance about the range of options they could work out if they could offer cost-effective subjects, the inspectors said.

David West, Ofsted's head of post-compulsory education, said students in the 1,789 sixth forms in English state secondary schools valued the security of familiar surroundings and the relationship with teachers on whom they knew they could rely. The quality of learning was high.

But half the schools did not have a clear idea of the balance between income and expenditure. Some inadvertently subsidised the £2,400 average annual income for a sixth former by using resources meant for younger pupils.

"There is a risk that schools may be making inefficient use of the finance they receive. There is a risk that implementing cost-saving measures in small sixth forms might not be effective with regard to young people's learning", Mr West said.

However, it was possible for a small sixth form to operate cost-effectively, perhaps in co-operation with other schools and colleges.

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'Spymania' threatens Polish PM

Matthew Brzezinski in Warsaw

A DEEPENING spy scandal involving the Polish prime minister, Jozef Oleksy, is threatening to plunge Poland into its worst political crisis since the collapse of communism.

The controversy, involving Mr Oleksy's 10-year dealings with a KGB spy, is likely to result in his resignation this week, politicians said yesterday. The reformed communist government is teetering on the brink of collapse after fresh allegations last week that other senior officials worked for Moscow.

"For the sake of the country, the present situation cannot continue," opposition leaders said yesterday as they prepared to file a motion of no confidence in the government. The Freedom Union, the main opposition party, issued a statement saying Mr Oleksy's resignation "is necessary for the good of the country, to restore its credibility and stop a political crisis".

President Aleksander Kwasniewski warned last week that the crisis could force him to dissolve parliament and call early elections.

"Enough games. Enough of this spymania," said the ex-communist who defeated Lech Walesa in last November's presidential poll.

"Spymania" has not spared Mr Walesa, who was named as a KGB mole last week by Alexander Oshkin, a former Soviet diplomat. Mr Walesa laughed off the charges.

With the scandal proving an international embarrassment to Poland's drive for Nato and European Union membership, Mr Kwasniewski called for hearings into the espionage charges to be made public.

The accusations surfaced in late December, when Andrzej Milczanowski, the outgoing interior minister and a Walesa ally, told parliament he had evidence that Mr Oleksy had been a Moscow informant since the early 1980s.

Mr Oleksy denies any wrongdoing but admits to a "purely innocent" long-standing friendship with a KGB

colonel, Vladimir Alganov. With the alleged evidence against him being kept secret, conspiracy theories abound, implicating a growing number of officials.

The influential news weekly Wprost reported last week that Mr Oleksy's case was the tip of the iceberg. The magazine said it had evidence, which it did not publish, of four other senior Russian moles in the ruling Democratic Left Alliance (SLD).

The magazine linked the present scandal to a well-documented loan of \$1.2 million (2800,000) which the then Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, made to Poland's moribund Communist Party in 1990. It said the cash was used by Poland's former communists to help establish the SLD, which swept parliamentary elections in 1993.

Wprost published what it claimed were KGB documents saying that a minister in the present government was at Col Alganov's Warsaw flat during the cash transfers.

A senior Polish intelligence official, General Victor Fomara, claimed 80 per cent of the Wprost article was accurate. The revelations created a storm in parliament.

Mr Kwasniewski, who led the SLD until he was sworn in as president in December, promised last week to create a "decommissioning" commission to publish old secret police files and screen elected officials. The move was interpreted as a threat against the opposition because the files are said to contain incriminating evidence against many former Solidarity dissidents.

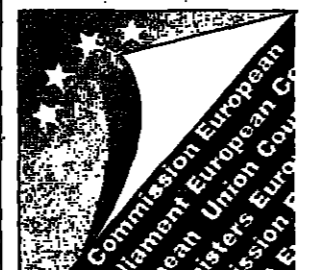
Many Poles are convinced the whole affair was concocted by the secret service, which is loyal to Mr Walesa. Former communists say the allegations are a provocation aimed at reversing their electoral success.

Mr Oleksy's refusal to step down has only deepened the crisis. What many find most distressing is that, for Poland's ex-communist rulers, an acknowledged close relationship between the prime minister and an agent serving a country from whose yoke Poland has only recently escaped is not reason enough to resign.



Booyant mood... A man turns an air-bed to novel use in his back garden in Jerez, southern Spain, after heavy rain caused floods across the region. PHOTOGRAPH: JARO MUNOZ

Moveable feast has drawbacks for some



In the second of a four-part series on key EU bodies, STEPHEN BATES examines the under-reported Parliament and its army of lobbyists

IT SOMETIMES feels as though everywhere you go in Europe a new European Parliament is being built. In Brussels, the skyline is dominated by an enormous glass monstrosity under construction: the European Parliament, used for 12 days a year. It is the biggest building project in Europe and has so far cost more than £1.7 billion.

Strasbourg, 300 miles away, also has a European Parliament, used for 60 days a year. The building work there, to provide more offices, will cost about £500 million. But, because of a lack of direct flights, it can take MEPs from the peripheral member states the best part of a day to reach Strasbourg and a day to get home each month.

The offices serving the European Parliament are in Luxembourg, halfway between the two. Its library is there, too. Thousands of steel packing cases stuffed with documents are piled into large transport vans which drive up and down the auto-routes to wherever the parliament is sitting. The price of moving bag and baggage to Alsace and back each month is about £100 million a year — 20 per cent of the Parliament's entire running cost.

Running the parliament buildings costs \$500 million a year and will shortly rise to \$300 million. Yet the Parliament is almost invisible. A Europe-wide survey in 1993 showed only 16 per cent of Britons questioned were aware of it, compared with 44 per cent of French, 52 per cent of Germans and 47 per cent of Italians.

It is not the 15 nationalities or the 10 political groupings that make it difficult to report a proper debate, but the fact that it is not really an executive chamber. No government will fall if it loses a vote, taxes are not raised, no patronage is at stake, you cannot end up a minister.

Yet there are moves to increase its role. Labour would like MEPs to have the right to elect the president of the European Commission and gain increased powers to initiate legislation. The Parliament already plays a significant part in the government of Europe. It has what are known as co-decision powers, so that the Commission and the Council of Ministers have to take seriously every piece of legislation.

It could threaten to throw out a commissioner or even the entire Commission. Despite the drawbacks, Labour and Conservative MEPs say they can influence practical issues across Europe much more than if they were based in Westminster.

They like things being done by consensus — through building cross-party and international alliances. "I got £50 million written into the budget to promote democratic institutions in the eastern Mediterranean," said Edward McMillan-Scott, a Tory MEP. "I couldn't have got that done back home."

Alan Donnelly, Labour MEP for Tyneside, agreed. "It is simply a fact of life that you have much more influence being an MEP."

But in a chamber without party whipping, without a government, politics can be worthy but tedious. Not always of course. Half the British Labour group in Strasbourg abstained or voted against Tony Blair's line that Europe should conclude a customs agreement with Turkey last month.

MEPs resent accusations that they are on a gravy train. They feel ignored and undervalued at home. True, they earn decent salaries in line with those of their own national parliaments. This means British MEPs earn about £34,000 a year and Italians more than £70,000.

But there are also big allowances: £155 a day for official meetings, £2,131 a month for office costs, £5,826 a month for staff costs, and travel. They have free office accommodation in Brussels and Strasbourg.

A lot of MEPs do not turn up. But there must be something in it. Graham Mather, Tory MEP for North Hamp-

shire, West Berkshire and Oxfordshire, said: "Every time I think the parliament is meaningless, I get another lobbyist knocking at the door. They must think it's worthwhile."

Lobbying is a huge business in Brussels and Strasbourg. At the last count, the European Public Affairs directory listed 400 trade associations, 300 large companies, 150 non-profit pressure groups, 120 regional and local governments and 180 specialist law firms in Brussels alone.

With prolonged delays in securing rulings from the European Court of Justice, it pays companies to try to influence the framing of the law before it is introduced.

Many lobbyists bear gifts. When Turkey was lobbying for a customs agreement last autumn, more than a third of MEPs and their partners received free trips. Those who voted in favour received 10 compact discs of Turkish folk-singing.

Next: Inside the Council of Ministers

Tough talker heads Bosnia

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

HASAN MURATOVIC, the minister officially appointed yesterday to head Bosnia's post-war government, is described by those who deal with him regularly as the perfect product of his country's history: part apparatchik, part Balkan wheeler-dealer.

"He will give you the party line — word perfect — but then, in the same breath, offer to cut you a special deal," one aid official said. Mr Muratovic's appointment was confirmed yesterday by Bosnia's seven-man presidency. He is known for his no-nonsense bargaining style, and his ascent from minister without portfolio to the top government job represents more than a simple change in style. It also says much about the future shape of Bosnia.

The incumbent prime minister, Haris Silajdzic, aimed to give Bosnia's Muslim and Croat authorities into a cohesive, unified government. He fought a losing battle against nationalists in both camps who wanted to keep the Muslim-Croat Federation in its present state — little more than a territorial carve-up.

Most observers believe that Mr Muratovic, although not a member of the governing Muslim Party of Democratic Action (SDA), is expected to follow the party line.

"If you are looking for a technocrat to dispatch party policy and do business, rather than a politician who will struggle with the party for the right to make policy, then Muratovic is the man for the job, given the current choice available," one Western diplomat in Sarajevo said.

Mr Muratovic, a former businessman and management consultant, aged 55, who

was one of Bosnia's richest men before the war, has been given the task of forming a new government according to the blueprint laid down in the Dayton peace accord. This will include Muslims, Croats and — after elections due later this year — Serbs.

Mr Silajdzic offered his resignation on Sunday after a row with the SDA over the division of power between the government and the ethnically defined regional authorities.

Mr Muratovic is likely to be more acceptable to the Croats and Serbs, who know him from past negotiations over prisoners and the flow of commodities during the war.

"They know him as a man they can do business with, and so do we," a United Nations official said. Mr Muratovic was tough when bargaining with the UN Protection Force (Unprofor). But UN officials concede that he was the minister they turned to when they wanted to get something done.

There is now considerable uncertainty over Mr Silajdzic's future. Many believe he will form a new moderate party to challenge SDA supremacy among Muslims. Bosnia's small opposition parties are also courting him.

Nato and the war crimes tribunal in The Hague yesterday agreed on how to work together to investigate Bosnia's mass graves.

Judge Richard Goldstone, the head of the tribunal, said in Sarajevo that investigators would start fieldwork "in the very, very near future", with the help of peacekeepers.

But Nato sources made it clear that such assistance would be forthcoming only after the Nato-led peace implementation force had carried out its "primary objectives": the separation of opposing forces and the country's demilitarisation.

Greek cabinet takes oath for 'new democratic era'

Helena Smith in Athens

GREECE entered a new political era yesterday with the inauguration of its smallest, youngest and most pro-European Socialist government ever.

Amid incense, icons and chanting bishops, the prime minister, Costas Simitis — a diffident man with a professorial air — found it hard not to smile as his 40-member cabinet took the oath.

The changing of the guard came only days after Mr Simitis took over from the ailing Andreas Papandreu. It follows years of crushed efforts by the reformer to revamp the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) and its policies.

The energetic technocrat, aged 59, is the youngest prime minister since the collapse of the military dictatorship in 1974.

If the prime minister has his way, yesterday's ceremony will be his administration's last contact with the past. By the time Greece goes to the polls next year, Mr Simitis hopes his team of young modernisers and old-guard Papandreu loyalists will have taken firm strides to turn Greece into a modern democracy.

"There are great expectations for this government to solve problems and chart new roads," he said after his first cabinet meeting. "We do not have the luxury of delays or postponements... Greece cannot wait."



Archbishop Serafim greets the new foreign minister, Theodoros Pangalos.

Russia's navy flies the flag despite disarray

David Farrhall Defence Correspondent

RUSSIA'S brand new aircraft carrier, Admiral Kuznetsov, has appeared on the high seas in a signal that, despite mounting troubles, Moscow's armed forces are still struggling to sustain the remnants of a superpower armory.

The 67,000-ton Kuznetsov is a symbol of the former Soviet navy's ambitions to stage a comeback in the Nato ports of Piraeus and Naples. The message is two-fold: it shows the world that the Russian navy is still in business, even if the rest of its carrier fleet is being scrapped or sold; while, back home, it may help to persuade Moscow that what remains is still worth funding.

In spite of drastic cuts in manpower, equipment and activity since the end of the cold war, Russia's forces were still allocated about a fifth of the federal budget in 1994 and 1995 (although much was clawed back by the finance ministry, and eroded by inflation).

Organisationally, they are in turmoil, of which the Chechen disasters are only one symptom. The Soviet Union's disintegration has opened huge gaps in the Russian air-defence system, stranded semi-deferred equipment in newly independent republics — especially Ukraine, from which Moscow is buying back nuclear missiles, strategic bombers and warships — and intensified the problems of cutting military manpower when the civilian economy is also in collapse.

In the next 10 years, manpower is eventually forecast to decline from the 1.9 million quoted last year by the defence minister, General Pavel Grachev, to 1.2 million.

Separate strategic rocket and air-defence forces are to be merged with the rest of the air force. In Moscow, the defence department is supposed to acquire a civilian minister instead of a general.

As the three services are rebuilt, the army — always the senior service in Russia — will probably have least difficulty justifying its budget. It need only point towards the Caucasus. Russia has already demanded changes in its Conventional Forces in Europe arms control treaty with Nato, to allow for more ground forces on its southern borders.

The navy — notwithstanding the Kuznetsov deployment — is heading for rough waters. The air force has the advantage — as does Britain's RAF — of relying on high-tech equipment which, once produced, can also be exported to earn hard currency.

The emerging re-equipment programme includes a long-range subsonic Stealth bomber to replace and the ageing Tu-95 Bears and the unreliable supersonic Tu-160 Blackjacks, many of which are standing idle in Ukraine. Tu-22 Backfires and Su-24 Fencers are to be replaced by an intermediate-range Sukhoi design known as the Joint Continental Bomber.

The air force is also waiting for Mikoyan's multi-role fighter fitted with a new generation of "smart" weapons.

Refugees barred

The Tanzanian army has shut the border with Burundi, turning back 17,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees fleeing ethnic violence, Seamus Dunne, head of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies at Tanzania's Ngara camp, said yesterday. The border was shut overnight after more than 14,000 Rwandan Hutus crossed into Tanzania last week. — Reuters.

Suspect killer held

Police in Argentina have arrested a suspect in the 1974 assassination of a former Chilean army commander and his wife in Buenos Aires. President Carlos Menem announced yesterday. — AP.

Son seeks jail

An Italian confined to house arrest has begged police to jail him so he can escape his nagging mother, newspapers reported yesterday. — Reuters.

Pizzeria deaths

Three people were killed and two seriously injured in a bomb explosion outside a pizzeria in the centre of the Bulgarian capital Sofia, police said yesterday. Two men were killed and one seriously injured when they were given about \$2,500 by the owner. — AP.

In mid-June 1992, Mikhail Gorbachev visited Israel: "We gave him a state dinner when he came. He said this to me: 'If there was one single element that really was active in helping to get the Jews out of Russia, it was him....'"

Russell Davies G2 cover story

سكسنا ن الامل



Human cost... Angolans are still paying the price for 20 years of civil war, but diamonds, oil and gold testify to the country's untapped wealth PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SUTTON

The dazzling lure of peace

Angola's discourse of war may prevail, but talk in Luanda is of gems, writes David Beresford

SITTING on a hotel balcony, the ambassador recounted with gleaming eyes how a diamond prospector had invited him to grab a random handful of gravel from a river bed, and had then picked three precious gemstones from his palm. Below, in Luanda's stinking, garbage-strewn streets, a street-urchin kicked his legs in the air for balance as he roared through a roadside bin, and a handful of men scavenged through rubbish with absent-minded indifference. In a country where inflation stands at more than 5,000 per cent, money has little more than nominal value. But that is not to say there is no wealth. This is get-rich-quick country and the carpet-baggers are in town — many

of this, De Beers and rival buyers are taking uncut pebbles at top prices with no questions asked. Testifying to the wealth in this land of the poor, a giant oil rig squats in Luanda Bay, undergoing maintenance. The black gold pumped out of Angola at the rate of 685,000 barrels a day has financed the governing MPLA during 20 years of civil war, as well as potential of other sectors of the economy. But, before war broke out, it was Africa's second-largest food producer and the world's fourth-largest coffee exporter. The economic potential offered by peace is obvious. But the chances of peace being established are far more uncertain, resting apparently on the shoulders of Alimov Blondin Beye, the United Nations special representative. The temptation is to characterise the base for the UN mandate for peacekeeping in

buzz of air-conditioning units under a baking African sun. Mr Beye seems to carry Unimov by sheer force of enthusiasm. But the impracticability of the whole operation is reflected in the fact that Mr Beye, from Mali, is a French-speaking country, heading an operation administered in English. Diversity may represent a celebration of international co-operation. But two Brazilian peacekeepers recently paid for this show with their lives when the Romanians staffing the main field hospital, strangers to tropical diseases, failed to diagnose cerebral malaria. The contribution of mediation to the resolution of conflict is always debatable: more often than not, peace is the product of a convergence of circumstances over which the UN presides as a master of ceremonies. Ten days ago, the diplomatic corps in Angola was

Bahrain's army flexes muscle

Kathy Evans
BAHRAIN'S army has threatened to introduce martial law in response to the latest clashes between the island's opposition movements campaigning for a renewal of democracy and state security forces. The defence ministry's threat, issued in a statement at the weekend, followed a meeting between its officials and the crown prince, Sheikh Hamed, the army's commander in chief. Sheikh Hamed was said to have been concerned that the disturbances were getting out of control after riots spread to Hamed town, the middle-class, predominantly Sunni Muslim suburb named after him. The unrest had previously been confined mainly to Shi'ite villages outside the capital, Manama. Bahraini newspapers warned that the situation was "drifting towards a dangerous crossroads, the country stands on the brink with potential military involvement only a whisper away". Shi'ite villages remained cordoned off, with few people on the streets. Opposition sources in London estimated that 2,000 people — many young Muslim clerics — had been arrested in the past three days. Among them was a leading Shi'ite cleric, Sheikh Jamil. The elderly imam was taken from his home at midnight last night and his family placed under house arrest. The detention of large numbers of clerics and prayer leaders coincides with the start of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, when the attendances at mosques traditionally soar. The opposition sources in exile said the defence ministry's statement highlighted the growing rift about how to handle the crisis between the young crown prince and the

Missionaries help free Irian Jaya hostage

John Aglionby in Jakarta
THREE Christian missionaries appeared to make a breakthrough yesterday in hostage talks in Irian Jaya, the Indonesian part of the island of New Guinea, after securing the release of another captive. But diplomats in Jakarta are not convinced that freedom is near for the remaining 13 hostages, including four British graduates and two Dutch wildlife researchers. The separatist Free Papua

Late results fuel rumours of pro-Arafat vote rigging

Derek Brown in Jerusalem
PALESTINIAN officials were still scrutinising returns from Saturday's general election last night, more than 24 hours after the promised deadline for final results. The long delay has spawned rumours of alleged ballot rigging in favour of Yasser Arafat's dominant Fatah faction. Mr Arafat, who scored a resounding personal victory in the contest for the presidency of the new self-rule Palestinian council, is certain to have an overwhelming majority in the legislature. Feelings were frayed for 78 of the 88 seats gave at least 50 to Fatah. Main opposition parties, such as the Islamist movement Hamas, boycotted the polls. But more than 20 independent candidates were victorious, including outspoken critics of the self-rule accords with Israel, and of Mr Arafat's autocratic style. Most observers see the outcome as a clear endorsement of the peace policies of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's chairman, and as a rebuff to the Islamist movement which, although it boycotted the poll, had several well-known candidates running as independents. International monitors said voters had been allowed to express themselves freely, though they criticised both Israeli and Palestinian security forces, present in large numbers at polling centres. Yesterday brought fresh allegations of malpractice. The Israeli human rights group B'tselem said one candidate's brother, a lawyer, had been arrested after complaining of ballot rigging. Palestinian security sources confirmed that the man, Hussein al-Shuykhi, was detained. They said he had urged a crowd to burn down a police station, in protest against the alleged fraud.

Japanese poets become well versed in stardom

A nation's obsession with expression is fostering a growing culture of celebrity, reports Nicholas Kristof in Tokyo
SHE is young and famous, and has her own radio show. Her fans mob her in the street. But Madoka Mayuzumi is neither a movie actress nor a rock star. She is a poet. Ms Mayuzumi is one of a number of Japanese poets who have achieved a celebrity status usually reserved for superstar athletes or entertainers. No country takes poetry more seriously than Japan. "People are affluent now, but after they've gained everything they want to express themselves," said Ms Mayuzumi, aged 30, a former office lady or "OL" at a Tokyo bank. "OLs wear fashionable clothes, play tennis and go skiing, but they're not satisfied with that," she said.

"They want to show their feelings." Poetry has a long tradition in Japan, but in the past two decades it has surged in popularity. Millions regularly write verse and thousands more enjoy reading and hearing it. As well as regular television and radio shows, there are more than 2,000 poetry magazines and newsletters, and thousands of poetry books — some bestsellers. All national newspapers carry several poetry columns and one newspaper, the Asahi Shimbun, runs a daily poetry column on the front page. Its writer, Makoto Ooka, who has sold 1.2 million copies of his books, said: "The number of people who write and read poems is at a record high. Poetry has become a living thing in people's lives." A few days ago, several television channels offered live coverage of the Imperial poetry contest, Japan's poetry equivalent of the Super Bowl. Emperor Akihito and his family attended, entering poems along with more than 15,000 others. The broad appeal of poetry underscores the way in which "high culture" in Japan is integrated into "pop culture". Classical music, theatre, literature and poetry have an extraordinarily broad audience. Paradoxically, the Japanese insist that so many people appreciate poetry not because they are deep but because they are shallow. They suggest Japanese verse is more accessible because it is shorter and more vivid than Western poetry. Yoshinasa Ueda, who edits haikus for the Asahi Shimbun, said: "Poems are so short, anybody can write them." — New York Times.

News in brief

Belize challenges Britain's law lords

THE lives of four men on death row in Belize hung in the balance yesterday, as a battery of lawyers and five of Britain's most eminent judges argued arcane points of law in a high-ceilinged oak-paneled room thousands of miles away. The government of the tiny Central American country is challenging the right of the judicial committee of the Privy Council — Britain's law lords in their role as final court of appeal for some Commonwealth countries and territories — to hear the men's petitions against their sentences. Lawyers for Belize, which gained independence from Britain in 1981, claim a proclamation by the governor in 1978, laying down time limits for appeals, bars the Privy Council from hearing the pleas. The men, all sentenced to death for murder, failed to file their cases in time, the lawyers say. The Belize government has introduced a bill to remove the right of appeal to Britain's law lords, but it has insufficient support to force the measure through. Sir George Brown, the country's Chief Justice, ruled last September that the Belize cases were "unlawful" before the Privy Council, and the law lords would be acting outside their jurisdiction if they heard them. — *Clare Dyer, Legal Correspondent.*

Hashimoto takes tough line

JAPAN'S new prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, promised yesterday to introduce a more assertive foreign policy that will reduce the United States presence on the southern island of Okinawa. In his first speech to parliament, Mr Hashimoto — who proved a tough negotiator in trade talks with the US last year — tried to present himself as a reformer who will shake up the governing establishment. He took the offensive on an unpopular plan to bail out home mortgage companies with taxpayers' money, saying he would "deal strictly" with any mortgage company officials who may have broken the law with loans to property speculators. Mr Hashimoto said he wanted to reduce the US military facilities on Okinawa, where more than half of the 47,000 US troops in Japan are stationed. Protests there have been growing since the rape of a 12-year-old girl last September, allegedly by three US servicemen. — *AP, Tokyo.*

Top banker flees Rwanda

THE governor of Rwanda's central bank has fled to Europe, warning of growing insecurity for his fellow Hutus in the latest defection from the top ranks of the government, sources close to the banker said. They said Gerard Ntuyeteka left for self-imposed exile in Belgium earlier this month during an official trip to Europe. Jean-Pierre Bizimana, the information minister, confirmed the defection. "Our central bank governor has fled the country. He has complained of worsening insecurity and acts by the military," he said. Mr Bizimana said Mr Ntuyeteka had fled for personal reasons and alleged that the banker had been implicated in a scandal after Rwanda issued new notes last year. Mr Ntuyeteka's defection follows what Western diplomats see as the rise of Tutsi hardliners in the new government. — *Reuter, Kigali.*

Muslim leader shot dead

THE pro-Moscow Muslim spiritual leader of Tajikistan and members of his family were shot dead in an attack which cast a shadow on fresh efforts to bring peace to the central Asian state, Tajik officials said yesterday. Government officials reached by telephone from Alma Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, said Murti Fatkhulla Sharipov, aged 58, died in a sub-machinegun fire when unknown assailants burst into his home in the Tajik capital Dushanbe late on Sunday night. His wife, son, daughter-in-law and a teenage spiritual pupil staying at his home were also killed, officials said. The killings, on the first day of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, were condemned by the government and an Islamic opposition leader based in Iran. Tajikistan's president, Imomali Rakhmonov, after visiting the mufti's relatives, denounced the murder as "barbarous and cynical challenge to the Muslim world". He said: "It is an attempt to destabilise the political situation in the republic." — *Reuter, Alma Ata.*



A Muscovite gathers the signatures needed to secure Boris Yeltsin's place on the June ballot PHOTOGRAPH: SERGEI KAPRUKHIN

Yeltsin hints at candidacy

RUSSIA'S president, Boris Yeltsin, said yesterday he might again run for the presidency in June but would not announce his final decision until the middle of February. Speaking to foreign investors, Mr Yeltsin said: "I understand that, if I give my consent, the fight will be a hard and not a simple one. Those against whom I will have to compete are rather unusual people, but we will take account of the electoral experience of other countries." Despite being ridiculed in the Russian press for the recent hostage crisis in Dagestan, Mr Yeltsin kept up a barrage of statements designed to prove that he is an active candidate. Yegor Gaidar, his first prime minister and guru of the reform programme, yesterday urged him not to stand, echoing democrats who now regard Mr Yeltsin as a liability. "His nomination would be the best present to give to the communists," Mr Gaidar said. Mr Yeltsin's main challenger for the Russian presidency is expected to be the Communist Party leader, Gennady Zyuganov. — *David Hearst, Moscow.*

Soldiers deny student killings

EIGHT soldiers and a school administrator pleaded not guilty yesterday to involvement in the disappearance of 26 teenage students in Sri Lanka seven years ago. They face 80 charges of abduction and murder. The students disappeared at the height of the army's drive in 1989 to crush a two-year insurrection in the south, the heartland of Sinhalese nationalism. The crackdown was against the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front, a Marxist group that waged a terrorist campaign to overthrow the government. By the time the insurrection was crushed in 1989, up to 80,000 people had died, according to Amnesty International. In retaliation, government-sponsored death squads abducted suspected Marxist supporters, especially young men, according to well-documented reports. Meanwhile, Tamil separatists claimed to have shot down an air force helicopter with 20 people aboard, which disappeared off the northern coast yesterday. — *AP, Colombo.*

Oath forces OJ to speak

O. J. SIMPSON was due to face hostile questions from lawyers yesterday, the first time the former United States sports star was to speak under oath about the double murder case in which he was acquitted last October. He had been ordered by a judge to submit to a deposition, in which defendants in a civil trial first give private testimony in a lawyer's office. Mr Simpson is being sued for wrongful death by the families of his late wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. Mr Simpson is marketing his own version of the events — not delivered on oath — on a television show he has sold to a black cable network. — *Christopher Reid, Los Angeles.*

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Suspect killer held

Son seeks jail

Working together again

The LibDems may be part of a Blair government

FIFTEEN years ago at the Liberal conference in Llandudno Sir David Steel uttered the most famous line of his political career when he told his party to return to the constituencies and prepare for government. Well we all know what happened next. In the 1983 general election the Liberals and their allies won lots more votes, but ended up with very few extra seats. The breaking of the political mould, once so confidently expected, had to be deferred once again.

Events have compelled the Liberal Democrats to learn from their own history. Far from slipping into third place, Labour has hoisted itself into sight of the winning tape once more. As a result Paddy Ashdown spoke from a less ambitious script than his predecessor in a keynote London lecture last night. But what he said was, in its way, just as dramatic as Steel at Llandudno. Do not prepare for government but for a share in government. Do not look for one party governing alone but for left-of-centre parties governing together. Compared with 1981 it is a scaled-down vision. And yet paradoxically this low rise, long-term goal could be the true mould-breaker after the next general election.

What Mr Ashdown announced last night was not just that he can work with Labour, but that he positively wants to do so for a decade. His words were conciliatory and appealing. His speech took the next logical step beyond last year's abandonment of Liberal Democrat equidistance between the two main parties. It positively embraced much of the agenda which Tony Blair has been setting out as Labour leader. There were of course sharp differences over subjects such as tax and electoral reform which, apart from anything else, are important for defining the parties' continuing separate identities. But in general the tone was Tony's.

It is striking how little of the speech Mr Blair could object to. When Mr Ashdown stresses the real importance of a Blair government avoiding the failures of the Clinton experience, one hears also the self-disciplined voice of the Labour leader. When he lists the prime characteristics of the new politics — education and skills, reformed welfare, longtermism in industry, constitutional reform, environmental sustainability and a constructive attitude to Europe — you can almost see Mr Blair checking off the numbers and realising that he has won the jackpot. Even the terms on which the two parties might cooperate are left helpfully more vague than before. Such a context makes Mr Ashdown's squabble about who first thought of stakeholding seem marginal indeed.

The crucial question is whether Mr Blair shares Mr Ashdown's belief in the desirability of cooperation between the two parties in government over such an agenda, irrespective of whether Labour has an overall majority. The official response to Mr Ashdown last night was *de haut en bas*, but there are reliable signs that Mr Blair actually shares the LibDem leader's general view. Mr Blair is on record as an advocate of inter-party cooperation and often shows himself sympathetic to centre-left realignment. There is also good reason to suppose that in the long run he might include Liberal Democrat ministers in his government, even if the numbers do not necessitate it.

All this, however, is some way down the road. Mr Ashdown has gone about as far as he ought to, this side of the election. Likewise Mr Blair will not respond much more explicitly in public than he has done so far. But the two left of centre parties are now in a position to work together in government if the opportunity arises. That is as it should be. It is an intriguing prospect.

A landslide victory for peace

But Arafat and Israel face severe problems in future talks

REASON HAS triumphed over fantasy in the Palestinian elections. Yasser Arafat's landslide victory is an overwhelming endorsement of the peace process and reflects a growing view among the Palestinians that their national aspirations for an independent state are more likely to be gained by negotiation than by violence and terrorism. The election result is also a vindication of the decision of the late Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres to negotiate with Yasser Arafat, the man they had long reviled as an outcast terrorist. Fatah's campaign was certainly not without its flaws, and Palestinians still have much to learn about democratic processes and a free press. But as the international observers have testified, none of the violations were so serious as to put the outcome of the election into question. Beyond doubt, the PLO leader has finally acquired legitimacy and will be in a much stronger position at the marathon "final settlement" round of peace talks which begin in May and are scheduled to last up to three years. In the enthusiasm of the moment Arafat's close aides are predicting that a Palestinian state has now come within tangible reach. Realism however dictates caution. Israel remains far from accepting that the Palestinian "entity" should ultimately gain full independence. Just because so much has been achieved since Oslo it cannot be assumed that the momentum is now such that statehood is inevitable. The most intractable issues cannot

any longer be kept on the backburner. The future of the Israeli settlements, the status of Jerusalem, and the return of the Palestinian diaspora must now be tackled. To resolve any of this will take considerably more compromise than has yet been on display. Certainly Arafat cannot count on major concessions from Israel unless the Palestine National Council, the PLO's supreme body with hundreds of members in the diaspora, amends its charter to strike out the call for the destruction of Israel. Even in his newly strengthened position Arafat will not find it easy to convince the PNC to overturn this article of the Palestinian faith.

More immediately, the PLO leader has to keep the lid on Hamas and other extremists who might yet endanger the whole peace process. It could turn out that Hamas misjudged the Palestinian yearning for stability and economic progress, and committed a fatal error in boycotting the elections. But even with Israeli help, there is no guarantee that Hamas can be neutralised.

The US and its European allies greeted Arafat's victory with a torrent of congratulations for him and his electorate. No doubt there will now be even greater financial generosity than has been in evidence so far. But satisfaction with Arafat's achievements so far must not inhibit the international community from pressing for more accountability from his administration, and above all for greater respect for human rights within the Palestinian "entity".

The rich will vouch for vouchers

But debate on pre-schooling is drowned by the Harman factor

WITHOUT a trace of embarrassment, the Education Secretary set out the Government's plan for nursery schools yesterday — a proposal which she had fought and resisted until over-ruled by the Prime Minister. It took a Conservative backbencher and former education minister, George Walden, to pose the most awkward question: just how much would be handed out to well-off parents already happily spending their own money on private provision. Mrs Shephard was unable to say. She claimed to want all people to benefit but if she was genuine, she would abandon the plan. It contains no extra capital for new places, no extra resources to train the necessary teachers, no extra cash for three-year-olds. All that is on offer are £1,100 vouchers — equivalent to half the cost of a full-time nursery school place — for all four-year-olds beginning in April next year. The comfortably-off, already paying for their children, will

welcome the subsidy — many of the poor who have been unable to find a free place or pay for a private one will still be shut out. Yet there was not even the glimmer of a blush from the Education Secretary. There was a more important quarry to hunt: Harriet Harman.

Most Conservative MPs had a single purpose: maintaining the spotlight on Labour's shadow health secretary who is sending her son to a Kent grammar school in contradiction to her party's opposition to selective education. The cruellest jibe came from a Tory quoting from an article by Labour's shadow education secretary in his local paper a year ago: "I am having no truck with middle class, leftwing parents who preach one thing and send their children to other schools outside their area." Ouch. Yet Ms Harman's sin pales into insignificance compared to the Tories' nursery "sell out".



Letters to the Editor

Another victim of Labour's class war

MY SON'S schooling does not embarrass Labour on education, even if the choices of some other Labour MPs certainly have done so (Six of the best who embarrass Labour, January 22).

First, my boys went to Elliott School because it is the nearest local comprehensive. Second, my elder son had been at Elliott for five years before it opted out. We were not about to throw his education into turmoil just as he was starting his A levels by removing him. Third, I voted against the school opting out because I don't agree with the policy.

But fourth — and this makes our case even more distinct — Elliott opted out to retain its comprehensive status since Wandsworth Council's extreme rightwing policies would have forced it to become a selective grammar school, hating the mix of pupils from all backgrounds. It is a typical incoherence comprehensive with a very mixed intake.

We deliberately chose a comprehensive because selection is a mechanism for perpetuating the old class divide which has prevented Britain creating a decent educational system with high standards for all. But that won't be achieved unless the professional classes, MPs included, send their children to local comprehensives as well.

Peter Bain,
Labour MP for Neath,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

THE criticism of Harriet Harman and Jack Dromey is misplaced. We faced their dilemma when we sent our eldest son to St Olave's in 1987. At the time, one of us was a senior national Labour Party official and we consulted the leader of the IEA and the then leader of the Labour Party. The advice from both was identical: whatever criticisms you have of the present education system, it is the one in which your son will be educated.

Would any parent trust a politician who was prepared to sacrifice their own child's future on the altar of their political beliefs?

Nigel Williamson,
Magall Wild,
High Beech,
Sutherland Avenue,
Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent.

FOR ME, the Shadow Cabinet's tacit endorsement of Harriet Harman's hypocrisy is the end of the road. Like many Labour parents I was relieved to hear David Blunkett's unambiguous "Read my lips. No selection" at the party conference. How can Harman and Jack Dromey possibly reconcile their party's commitment to education as an agent of social cohesion with their decision to send their son to a highly selective grammar school? I fear New Labour turns out to be a repackaging of the "me first" instincts of Thatcherism.

Margaret Course,
38 Brook Street,
Waddington, Oxfordshire.

AS A former pupil of St Olave's (1978-1988), it seems to me that Harman and Dromey's choice is as much due to a poor understanding of education as to their lack of political judgement.

Bullying by teachers and pupils alike was rife: first years (known as "weeds") could expect routine abuse. Success at rugby union was a passport to the Old Olavians, the old-boys' network that could (for example) get the pig-ignorant into lucrative merchant-banking jobs. The only two black kids I ever saw suffered extreme racism. Petty rules were rigidly enforced: pupils were frequently suspended for wearing the wrong shoes, or for having too short (or too long) hair.

Yes, St Olave's produces plenty of qualifications; but a selective boys-only school based on a Victorian concept of schooling ignores the needs of a good education.

Mike Bell,
St Martins Drive,
Chapel Allerton,
Leeds LS7 3LR.

WHILE I have little sympathy with the Tories, I will not vote for a party which is going to tell me where to send my children to school any more than I would vote for one which tells me which car to buy, or which restaurant to dine in.

Cyrus P Randeria,
57 Oakwood Avenue,
Dunstable,
Beds LU5 4AS.

THE only surprising aspect of the latest Harman-Blair educational affair is that Gerald Steinberg is shocked (Comprehensive cant, January 22). Does he not recall that we have all been this way before — just a year or so ago, when the Blair family decided to send a son to join a Harman-Dromey at the Oratory School?

A Blair spin-paramedic then assured us that we were all being jolly silly because the Oratory was really just another ordinary London comprehensive. Now no doubt we'll get another googly pointing out that the latest school in question is just an ordinary institution for differently-abled children from under-privileged inner-city backgrounds. And next year, if there are any further leadership infants to educate, we'll probably be told that Eton is really just an ordinary school for those with special needs.

WV Thomas,
163 Barham Road,
Norwich NR2 3RG.

HARMAN'S decision fuels the debate about selection. One argument is that we must bring back selection because then the middle classes would use state education. Parents sent their children to private schools when we had selection. Further, the anger of the middle classes whose children failed the 11-plus and were condemned to secondary moderns was one of the main pressures to replace selection.

Or do contemporary thinkers imagine that middle classes would automatically get their children into the grammar schools — and if so isn't that an illustration of the unfairness of the system they want to see reinstated?

Selection failed the majority of children. More children pass GCSEs and A levels and go to university than in the 1970s. In the interests of social cohesion and the national need to have all our children well educated, we must build on the success of comprehensive education.

Margaret Tulloch,
Executive Secretary,
Campaign for State Education,
158 Durham Road,
London SW20 0DG.

FOR New Labour the policy is that there must be no policy while in opposition — only a constant stream of "aspirations", "objectives" or "principles", who can be surprised if members of an elite clique within the Shadow Cabinet interpret these "principles" as it suits themselves?

David Dawson,
38 Lynton Road,
Southport, Lancashire.

SHOULD all Labour Party members refuse to use water, electricity, gas, dental check-ups, eye check-ups and British Rail as all these are (or are to be) privatised?

K Grainger,
8 Leicester Grove,
Darlington,
Durham DL1 2XW.

Still awake?

READERS' responses to the original 1988 Guardian article on sheep-counting numbers which reproduced as Past Notes (January 9) generated a further recent correspondence, helped Michael Barry with his 1989 article, Traditional Enumeration in the North Country. He listed nine six score variants in the north of England and southern Scotland, plus some from the US. He gives the arguments for and against the origins of this counting system, by no means settled, and suggests that further study would be helpful. Your correspondent Muriel Granger (January 13) highlights this by citing a series much of which does not appear in his long list. Anyone over 80 should be sought for information as soon as possible: your Country Diarists are always helpful in these matters.

Derek Froome,
5 Brook Road,
Hale, Altrincham,
Cheshire WA15 9AR.

THE numbers your correspondent Ailsa Cregan gives from Cumbria — yan-a-dick, tyan-a-dick, lethera-dick etc (Letters, January 19) — bear a remarkable similarity to the West words for those numbers. The Ones say that the numbers were named by A J Ellis in 1977 as the "Anglo-Cymric score". They add that the connection between the numbers and the Celtic (Welsh, Breton and Cornish) numerals is that when the Romans invaded Britain, the people who managed to cling on to the old language and traditions were those in Scotland, Wales and the West Country and those whose work was lonely and who were left unmolested.

(Dr) Kim Thomas,
60 Thornfield Road,
London W12 8JQ.

IM not surprised nobody's got past 720-a-319201 in sheep-counting numerals — my own grandpa always fell asleep before she got to methera-bumfit.

Joan Smith,
Beighton,
Sheffield S19 6GA.



HAVE I got news for you

IT IS not reassuring that Sir Maurice Drake, "Britain's senior libel lawyer" (Publish and Be Damned, January 19), believes that newspaper proprietors knowingly publish untrue stories, calculating that the gain in circulation will outweigh the costs of a libel action.

Any owner or editor who played that kind of game would soon come unstuck. Successful editors have an accurate picture of their readers and the sort of thing that will get them interested. When they have an attractive story which is difficult to prove, they may try to guess whether the person concerned is likely to sue. In Elton John's case, it was probably thought that, given some of the things he had admitted in the past, the new claim was small beer. He proved them wrong.

Like most lawyers and judges involved in the libel casino, Sir Maurice seems to

have lost all notion of the value of money. Even if judicious, were to assess the damages, the costs of fighting cases are so enormous that for the provincial and trade press — especially the independents — the costs of resisting a claim alone could bankrupt a title.

From his Olympian vantage point on the bench Sir Maurice may choose to say that a publication must be prepared to put its existence and the livelihood of its staff at risk if it believes itself to be right; but then he and his fellow lawyers can say what they like in court without putting their livelihoods at risk. If on his way to becoming Britain's senior libel judge he took some steps to find out how the press really works, his opinions might have more value. They might also be modified.

Frank Branstetter,
Chairman, Local Sunday Newspapers Ltd,
54 Alma Street, Luton LU1 2PL.

DON'T let religion hijack the truth

YOUR Turkish correspondent (Russian PM threatens all-out Chechen war, January 18) is right to emphasise the strong sympathy for the Chechen cause in Turkey. However, it would be wrong to presume from his description of Mohammed Tojan, the hijacker of the Trabzon-Soehi ferry, as having been a "holy warrior" in Abkhazia, that the Abkhaz conflict was a religious war and that the Abkhaz are Islamic militants.

Some 55 per cent of the Abkhaz are Christian, the remainder Muslims. Before the out-

Scientists in an electric storm

DR Neville Goodman suggests (The dangers of distraction, January 18) that the courts are an inappropriate place for it to be determined whether or not childhood cancers are caused by electromagnetic fields (EMF), and other complex issues requiring scientific proof.

Dr Goodman seriously suggesting that if we can show the high levels of EMF in Simon Studholme's bedroom killed him and that Norway were negligent in not warning the family about the risks of having their son sleep next to the electric meter, they should not have to pay compensation to the family?

Scientists may prefer to see the world as one big laboratory experiment for them to analyse and assess at will. However, the reality is that every statistic in one of their studies is a real person who is entitled to all the rights and privileges accorded by society, including the right to

take their case to court. Let not scientists think that their work is above the law that governs the rest of us.

Maryn Day,
Solicitor for the Studholme family,
Leigh, Day and Co,
51 Grays Inn Rd,
London WC1X 8PP.

HAD Dr Goodman anything to do with an electricity company? I ask because his article on epidemiology contains much fogging.

He states that there is a very small risk from electromagnetic fields, and that even if the risks were high, it would be too expensive to do much about it. He compares the risk to that from tobacco; but tobacco is a risk that I can choose not to take.

Georgina Smith,
Sanna,
Kilgobbin,
Acharacle,
Argyll,
Scotland.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: The latest annual report published by the Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society was waiting for me on my return from a month's tour of Argentina. Rated amongst the top five in the Best Annual Bird Report Award run by the monthly magazine British Birds in its 1993 issue, the Society has responded confidently to the continuing challenge of further improvement in their report for 1994. A systematic list of the 233 species recorded in Cheshire and Wirral during the year provides a wealth of information sifted by the report compilers from observations submitted by 178 individual contributors and 24 bird societies and clubs. The remainder of the 108 pages include a report from the county ringing group and a number of articles such as those on the breeding status of Long-eared Owls and Ravens, the Ruddy Shelduck influx, and the discovery of a Yellow-breasted

Bunting on the Middle Eye at Hilbre Island in early September — a new bird for Cheshire which increased the County "list" to a total of 335 species. This was an exciting "find" and to quote the County recorder "a speciality of the Northern Isles, this species is incredibly rare on the west coast". Elsewhere, it is encouraging to read that a record four pairs of Peregrine Falcon bred or attempted to breed — two and three young respectively were raised at two sites, one nest failed for no apparent reason, and the fourth nest was lost to human predators — the egg collector. The report is not without its lighter moments, for example under Sparrowhawk "female plucking a pigeon at Eccleston was disturbed by the pigeon". Copies of this report are available from DJ Steventon, 207 Hardsfield Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2PX. Price £4.95.

JM THOMPSON

Diary
Mathew Norman

THE most tempting job advert for years (since chief proof-reader on the Susan Hampshire cross-wedding compendium, in fact) appeared in the Church Times. Lincoln Cathedral, the closest thing in Anglicanism to the medieval Vatican, requires a publications officer. The salary is £4,000-£18,000 and the winner must, states the classified, "act in accordance with the Cathedral's mission statement". What this actually means, your first PR challenge may be to put a rosy gloss on the wrongful-dismissal action fought by former verger Jeremy Freestone. She claims an affair with the dean, Brandon Jackson. He was cleared of adultery, and then made certain allegations about how he believed colleagues had treated him. This in turn led Bishop Robert Hardy to accuse him of "not behaving like a Christian gentleman", and to threaten resignation unless senior clerics stopped bitching. Very "another glass of sherry wine, vicar?", isn't it? The meek may inherit the Earth, but they are advised to steer well clear of Lincoln Cathedral.

AT Bush House, members of the BBC "drama rep" (regular radio actors) believe that rehearsal time has been cut ludicrously. One group recently approached a management figure to ask for an extra rehearsal. "When I hire a plumber," said the suit, "I expect him to get it right first time."

FEAR for the health and safety of my unimpaired friend Dr Julian Lewis, the man who spends his days scanning the air waves for anti-Forbias. In a neat reversal of the usual form, Julian is being sued by the solicitor for the very magazine he himself once boasted of closing with a libel action. The attention surrounds papers, left by Scallywagh vacated north London premises, that came somehow into Julian's possession. Worried for him, I leave messages at Tory Central Office every day, but he never calls. Usually he is extremely polite, so perhaps he has been taken ill? Or kidnapped? If you have positive sighting of Julian, all the Diary at once, and fit it in your rest.

My friend Michael Winner has broken a world record. On Sunday, he had articles in no fewer than four national newspapers. His record, you know, who I am? food column in the Sunday Times; "political" column in the News of the World; piece about how much he spends every Christmas in Barbados in the Observer; and one about a novel influenced by the action-fanger films made by me and Quentin Tarantino in the Sunday Express. Michael's prolific word count is now officially in direct inverse proportion to his hair count (the lowest in European history).

DAVID Davies writes from Wakefield, to pass on the following quote from a business magazine: "The future of Folker is in the hands of Mr Kok." This exciting news provides a chance to repeat an old, possibly apocryphal, but endlessly engaging anecdote about Douglas Bader, addressing a very posh board meeting. "All then this Folker appeared at three o'clock," he told them, "and another Folker came into view at five o'clock, so I pulled away and there was one of Folker straight ahead." As the giggling grew, the headmistress became more fidgety until she did take no more, and interrupted. "Girls," she said, "I must have a quiet seat to you that the Folkers to which Mr Bader refers were German fighter aircraft." "That's as it may be, madam," said Bader. "These fuckers were in Messerschmitts."

JUDGE Edwin Torres of New York last week reinforced a reputation for mordant wit, when a man just convicted of corporate fraud last week made the tactical error of asking about his release date. "Your parole officer," growled the laconic judge, "has not yet been born."



Ashdown comes to inspect the wiring

Commentary Hugo Young

SOME people say the election campaign has started too soon. I do not agree. There is a proper symmetry in these things. By spring 1997, the Government will have been in power for 18 years. That the preamble to its election should be stretched over 18 months does not seem excessive. An 18-year record deserves examination with due measured solemnity. That, however, is a large fact draped across the late decades of the century, merits more than a four-week scuffle by those who would displace it. Last night Paddy Ashdown made an opening campaign speech of suitable scale. He postulated a country on the brink of Armageddon. Its people are in ruins, its politics in ruins, its future poised between certain disaster and the conceivable possibility of re-birth — as long as his remedies were adopted. Nothing new about that, you may say: except that there was

novelty in what Mr Ashdown did not say. For this speech, "a bridge to the next millennium" marked the transition of the Liberal Democrats away from being the party of new ideas. If political maturity is marked by philosophical inertia, the Lib Dems have at last attained it. On the substance of their message — tax, education, the environment, Europe — they have nothing new to say. It is a remarkable retreat from even the smallest whiff of originality. On the other hand, forswearing creative small messages, Mr Ashdown comes out with a resounding big one. He puts into better, because less inhibited, words than anyone the challenge facing the left. Amid the aspirational platitudes that could be uttered with equal aplomb by Mr Major and Mr Blair, about welfare reform and long-term investment and better education and the rest of the painless banalities leaders everywhere now utter, Ashdown staked himself to political reform of a kind, he insists, which transcends the capacity of a single party in a single Parliament to bring about. It would be easy to damn this effort with faint bathos. Mr Ashdown and his party have fears that are far from the high ground he trod last night. He may soon be looking for a role. If Labour wins

by 100 seats, the old politics ordain that the third party will be able to do little but sit there quietly seething. By mapping out a multi-party approach to constitutional reform, the leader may be whistling to keep his spirits up. He is also, without doubt, seeking to instruct his own party disciples in the virtues of a collaboration some of them detest as much as Dennis Skinner. So in one way, this was the speech of a man starting at a party that isn't all it was. Its important message did come from the high ground. It was a challenge to political orthodoxy at a time when that doxy is less automatically accepted than it has been for decades. It said that unless the political wiring is renewed, the power that circulates from the people to their rulers and back again will ever more regularly short out. This renewal cannot be the minority that gave birth to it, but a party can never be the Labour Party, which still contains too few politicians who seriously believe in the splendours and complications of constitutional reform.

Thus spoke Mr Ashdown, as I liberally interpret him. The Lib Dems have been advancing for years, he thinks, met its moment in the history of a disenchanted national psyche. Also, he suggests, its political moment. For a Labour government comes to the point of reform, it will not be able to rely on a united body of Labour MPs to support it. Even a large majority might not be enough to guarantee Scottish devolution, or a Lords reform on the half-baked basis the leadership is contemplating. What Ashdown sees from his lofty stance is what other interested observers must also fear: a Labour government that has failed to prepare its reforms, disguised their radicalism even from itself, omitted to secure proper public understanding of them, and is therefore in danger of intensifying the very alienation on which it now has a unique opportunity to build.

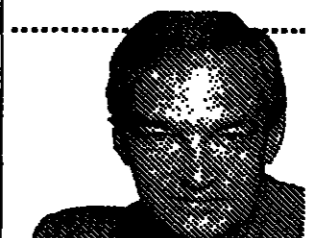
Without a PR promise from Labour, the Lib Dems recoil from playing

So, he makes a challenge to the Labour Party to engage in partnership politics, and proposes how this might be done across the floor of the House without resort to election pacts and similar non-starters. And what he wants, of course, is a Labour commitment to the ultimate tool and instrument of the new politics, electoral reform. This he cannot have, and the question is whether Mr Blair's silence on the subject must be an absolute impediment to progress. Without a PR promise from Labour, the Lib Dems, not wanting to sacrifice bargaining position, recoil from playing.

Blair has many reasons for not making the promise, some good, some bad, all pretty ineluctable. Any such promise, if made, would split the party. From an opposition leader it would be much less credible than it might be from a prime minister. So it wouldn't be worth giving, even if Mr Blair was ill. Robin Cook and a good many New Labour MPs, a believer. Another factor, blowing around in the wings, is the consideration that while parts of the Murdoch press may be willing to see Blair into power as a way of inducing a rightward shift in the Conservative Party, that slight possibility would wash to nothing if the Tories, as a result of PR, looked like being out of power for 20 years.

What Ashdown and his party under-estimate, however, is Blair's pledge at the 1995 party conference to hold a PR referendum. He didn't need to make this. Several colleagues advised him against it. By pushing it into the speech, he registered, I think, his constructive agnosticism. He knows PR may become integral to his project, offering the chance to assemble a genuine national majority in coalition behind reform, in contrast to the minority that gave birth to it, but a party can never be the Labour Party, which still contains too few politicians who seriously believe in the splendours and complications of constitutional reform.

Away with Dame Alice to Wonderland



Jon Snow

THE REQUIREMENT to address people as "Your Grace" has clearly been exercising court circles no end of late. By last week several Privy Counsellors were openly discussing the possibility of stripping her of her title. This raises two questions: can you do a "Sir" Jack Lyons on a Duchess — poor Jack having had his swept away by the Guinness black stuff; and what, in the late 20th century, should we be doing about the "front-loaded" honours — honours that alter the title of the recipient? It is the latter we need to attend to most urgently if the Prime Minister's two goals of reforming the honours system and diverting a classless society are to be realised within his political life-time. For in the end it is the "front-loaded" name changes delivered by the honours system that help to epitomise Britain's failure as a classless society. Curiously, Margaret Thatcher's lunge for the free market in economic matters was never matched by a similar understanding of the need to open up socio-political structures to the same market forces.

Nothing more acutely represents the antithesis of the free market than the honours system, or that prized element of it that yields a "front-loaded" title change — the barons, Knights and dames who henceforth become the Dame Ednas and Sir Jacks of British life. Whatever happens in private, market forces play no public role, neither in their selection nor in their disposal. For when the recipients are past their sell-by date only very exceptionally do they not then continue to occupy the titular high-ground of social and political activity. Hence, although bars were achieved in the course of marriage, we have this little local difficulty with Her Grace the Duchess of York. Indeed, one of the defining elements of Margaret Thatcher's legacy will surely be the fact that, for all her reforming zeal, her political tombstone will be adorned not with the name in which she carried out her monetarist reforms, but with the Baroness element which so symbolises the entrenched social resistance to so much of what she stood for economically. So much for the Duchess and the "front-loaded" title. Where is the "stakeholder" in all this? John Major told us

In his first newspaper article since winning the Nobel peace prize, Joseph Rotblat argues that to end the danger of nuclear genocide we must outlaw war itself — and calls on Britain to play its part by supporting Paul Keating's Canberra Commission

Going to war on war

Here then is the problem which we present to you, stark and dreadful and inescapable. Shall we put an end to the human race, or shall mankind renounce war?

THIS WAS the question posed in 1955 in the Russell-Einstein Manifesto. It was not a rhetorical question. It was put at that time because of the realisation that, with the development of the hydrogen bomb and nuclear missiles, human beings became an endangered species. The extinction of the human race could result from a natural event, for example a collision with a comet or meteorite or an exceptionally violent volcanic eruption. Such a phenomenon was probably responsible for the extinction of the dinosaurs. But the fact that this cataclysmic disaster occurred some 60 million years ago, and none of such magnitude has apparently happened since, means that for all practical purposes we can put it out of our minds. That such a catastrophe could be caused by the action of man was never considered seriously. History is full of attempted genocide. The gravest occurred this century: the Nazi programme of systematic elimination of whole categories of people, for no other reason than they were members of certain races. But there were no technical means for genocide. The advent of nuclear weapons has changed all this.

The chief characteristic of the nuclear age is that, for the first time in history, man has acquired the technical capacity to destroy his own species, and to accomplish it, willfully or accidentally, in a single action. The enormous significance of this situation has not yet sunk in, it seems. We continue with our squabbles, which often lead to war, ignoring the danger that minor disputes may escalate into large-scale hostilities, and eventually to a nuclear confrontation with catastrophic consequences. At present the danger of the superpowers responded to the question in the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, not by renouncing war but by trying to make it impossible through the policy of "mutually assured destruction". It is widely believed that deterrence worked; it appears to many to have brought stability during the cold-war period. But this is a grand illusion. There was no military stability; what we did have was a furious arms race. At no time was either of the superpowers satisfied with what it had in its arsenal. Throughout the period, scientists on both sides of the Iron Curtain kept on inventing new gadgets to make their own weapons more effective and those of the enemy more vulnerable. The result was an obscene accumulation of weapons: at one time reaching 70,000 nuclear warheads, 100 times more than was needed for deterrence. Even this was not enough to ensure security, and Ronald Reagan



felt obliged to embark on the Star Wars project, a defensive umbrella which would have led to more offensive weapons being deployed. There was an even chance, in my opinion, that a hardline leader would resort to the use of nuclear weapons in a desperate move to end the conflict. Fortunately, a sane man came on to the scene: Mikhail Gorbachev — influenced in part by the debates in Pugwash meetings — called a halt to the arms race, and saved civilisation.

At present the danger of a nuclear confrontation is greatly reduced, but it is still there. The nuclear states still adhere to the deterrence policy, which is bound to lead to more countries seeking the security which the United Kingdom and others say that

the possession of nuclear weapons provides. The only way to prevent this is to get rid of all nuclear weapons. There is indeed a growing realisation among the general public, as well as political and military leaders, of the need to create a nuclear-weapon-free world. The initiative of the Australian government to set up the Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is evidence of this trend. Paul Keating announced the Commission last November, as the first serious study of its type directly supported by a government. It deserves the support of the British government. Should these efforts succeed in bringing about a treaty to outlaw the possession of nuclear weapons, the

world would be a safer place, but not completely safe. The knowledge of how to make nuclear weapons cannot be erased. Even in a nuclear-weapon-free world, should the great powers become involved in a military confrontation, they would be tempted to rebuild nuclear arsenals. Moreover, other means of wholesale destruction may emerge from science. The human species will never be safe again, and we come back to the alternatives in the Russell-Einstein Manifesto: the end of the human race, or renunciation of war. Since the first is unacceptable, war must cease to be an admissible social institution. The abolition of all war must be our ultimate goal. To abolish war we need to create a new mind-set. We

have to convey to the peoples of the world the message that the safeguarding of our common property — humankind — calls for developing in each of us a new loyalty, a loyalty to mankind. Interestingly, the practical means for this are provided by the progress of science and technology has made this globe very small. We have all become close neighbours. Thanks to the tremendous growth of air travel, an ever-increasing number of people from different parts of the world meet each other. The development of satellite communications enables each of us to go on long instantly what is going on in any part of the world. By the use of computer networks systems we can talk to each other further advances in computer technology will overcome the language barrier. All of us, all inhabitants of the globe, are becoming like one family. But we still have to recognise this fact consciously and acquire a loyalty to mankind.

Loyalty to a group is an essential element in civilisation. A group, in which individual members fulfil specialised tasks, has a much better chance of achieving prosperity and security than if each individual fights for himself. It is in the interest of all members of the group to work in unison. Hence, loyalty to the group is essential. In the early history of civilisation the group was a family, but gradually — with increasing specialisation — a number of such groups combined, linked by some common characteristic; new loyalties were superimposed on the original ones, an extension rather than a replacement of previous loyalties. With increasing interdependence of people, largely arising from technological advances, ever larger groups evolved, leading to the nation. This is where it has got so far. Loyalty to one's nation is at present supreme, overriding the loyalties to other groupings. But now, when the whole of mankind needs protection, we have to extend loyalty beyond the nation. At a time when the action of a single nation may endanger the whole of civilisation, it is imperative to develop, and recognise consciously, even formally, loyalty to the whole of mankind. We must learn to think of ourselves as citizens of the world. The survival of humankind can no longer be taken for granted. It should be our conscious goal as we approach the new millennium.

Professor Joseph Rotblat won the 1995 Nobel peace prize for his work with the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs to abolish nuclear weapons. He is in Canberra now with the Commission for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, which will meet three or four times before reporting to Paul Keating by August 31, 1996. The Australian government then intends to submit its report to the UN General Assembly and Conference on Disarmament.

Advertisement for a book titled "Why doctors do more harm than good". The text discusses the dangers of drugs and pharmaceutical companies, and mentions Dr Vernon Coleman as the author. It includes a list of endorsements from various sources like 'The Observer', 'The Good Book Guide', and 'The Sun'. The book is published by the European Medical Journal.

Leonor Fini

Erotic dreams in Paris

THE ARTIST, Leonor Fini, who has died in Paris aged 87, could justifiably be called the last of the Surrealists. Born in Buenos Aires of Italian and Slav parentage, she was brought up in Trieste in the circle of James Joyce, Italo Svevo and Rainier Maria Rilke. She had no formal artistic training but was recognised as a child prodigy. She studied the Italian Mannerist painters in Florence and Venice and the works of Klimt and Schiele in Vienna. Her hero was Nietzsche whose declaration that marriage and family were incompatible with a life of great creativity became her credo. In 1929 she spent a year in Milan, where she joined the Novocento Italian group around Giorgio de Chirico, who became a close friend and important influence. He showed her Surrealist publications, and in 1931 she moved to Paris. Meetings with Max Ernst and Henri Carlier Besson soon led to invitations to join André Breton and his Surrealist friends at their regular meetings in the cafes of St Germain and Pigalle. The enthusiastic welcome she received perhaps owed more to her extraordinary beauty and her habit of wearing pink silk cardinals' stockings under a minimum of outer garments than to any admiration for her work. Fini was invited to exhibit with the Surrealists in 1933 and then again in 1936 in London and New York. Georges Hugnet, Eugène Ionesco and Georges Bataille became close friends, and Max Ernst, Paul Eluard and de Chirico wrote poems or articles devoted to her work. Fini shared the Surrealist fascination with Freud and his analysis of dreams and her work of the thirties found its source in the world of dream or nightmare. These precisely figurative and carefully controlled images came from her instinctive imagination and she preferred, in later years, to proclaim her independence from Breton's tight control of the group. She recently said: "It was encouraging to be among other artists but I disliked the deference with which everyone treated Breton and I hated his misogyny. It seemed that the women were expected to keep quiet in café discussions, yet I felt I was just as good as the men." Her experiences were shared by her friends, Leonora Carrington, Frida Kahlo and Marcel Oppenheim. Fini was in great demand in Paris. She always looked stunning because Elsa Schiaparelli lent her fashionable dresses for the publicity value. At one gallery opening she wore a beautiful Siberian wolf fur coat which she had exchanged for a painting. When someone suggested it was rather warm for such clothing, she opened her coat to reveal that she was naked. George Hoyningen-Huene photographed her dressed in nothing but black feathers. In 1937 she designed the Shocking scent bottle in the shape of Mae West's torso for Schiaparelli, and exhibited her own furniture. During the late thirties, Fini had a relationship with Max Ernst and the two would attend parties in the most extraordinary costumes. Picasso was infatuated with her, and Salvador and Gala Dalí became close friends. At the outbreak of war, Fini left Paris and spent some time in Arcachon with the Dalís before settling in Monte Carlo. There she fell in love with the Italian consul, Count Stanislaw Lepri, whom she persuaded to leave the service of the fascists. Later in Rome, she met the Polish writer, Constantin Jelenski, and the three friends set up a ménage à trois in Paris that lasted for 40 years until their deaths. During and after the war Fini's paintings reached maturity. She created an erotic dream world where women were in control, often in the disguise of the sphinx. These images showed a concern with ancient knowledge of ceremonies and rituals, a mythology based on the artist's own psychological and sexual experiences of both men and women. Her concept of eroticism flowed from "no idea of woman as fertility figure. Her autobiographical sphinxes

were sexual females with no hint of motherhood, and it was inconceivable that her submissive nude male figures could ever become fathers. The image of the female self subverted the male Surrealist dialogue with the female body in Magritte, Dalí, Bellmer, and recent feminist critics have hailed Fini's work as ground-breaking. Fini had mixed feelings about that adulation. She told me: "I am not a feminist. I hate being claimed as a feminist. I am not pleased to be included in books on feminist artists. I am a painter, not a woman painter. I am independent." In post-war Paris, Fini became one of the best-known figures in the artistic world. She designed ballets for Balanchine and Petit, and her creation Le Rêve de Leonor of 1949 was choreographed by Frederick Ashton to music by Benjamin Britten. She designed films, including John



Image of independence... "I am a painter, not a woman painter." PHOTOGRAPH: EDOY BUFFENO

Houston's A Walk With Love And Death (1968), and illustrated over 60 books. She also produced designs for almost 30 operas and plays, including Les Bonnes and Le Belcon by Jean Genet, who became a close friend. She made powerful portraits of her friends, Margot Fonteyn, Federico Fellini, Marcel Jouhadour, Suzanne Flon and Jean Genet. Her show at the Kaplan Gallery in London in 1960 had a catalogue essay by Max Ernst, and at her exhibition at the Hanover Gallery in London in 1967, an opening address was given by Stephen Spender. Her retrospective at the Musée du Luxembourg in Paris in 1986 attracted 35,000 visitors in one month, and reviews tended to be eulogies rather than criticisms. In recent years Fini divided her time between an old farmhouse by the Loire and a beautiful flat in Paris. She

continued to work until a few weeks ago. A visit to Fini was unforgettable. Speaking French with a strong Italian accent, she would tell hilarious and often scandalous stories about her old friends and heap abuse on those contemporary artists whose work she found of no value. Superb food, prepared by her constant companion, chef and secretary, Rafael Martinez, would be served, also shared with her 18 exotic cats, who would be allowed to roam the dining table and help themselves to the delicacies on offer. Woe betide the visitor who tried to intervene. Leonor Fini remained her own person, an independent woman of great talent and presence, to the end.

Peter Webb
Leonor Fini, painter, born August 30, 1908; died January 18, 1996

Sidney Korshak

Mouthpiece for the Mob in Hollywood

ONLY WITH the death at his Beverly Hills home of Sidney Korshak, aged 88, can his real epitaph be published as, among other things, the Mafia's top lawyer. He was also a man who symbolised that curious American social phenomenon of the evolution of organised crime into increasingly legitimate business. Korshak, the lawyer who never bothered with an office, represented Ronald Reagan and Frank Sinatra and George Raft but became better known throughout the movie world as the Mob's ambassador to Hollywood. From 1950, when he was made consigliere by Al Capone, and sent to Hollywood to mastermind the Mafia's takeover of the key union: the Theatrical Stage Employees, Korshak exercised an extraordinary and discreet power. To the Justice Department's organised crime division, he was "the brains behind the Mob", the one figure trusted enough by all the families to be asked to arbitrate disputes. Korshak was so powerful that when he turned up at the Riviera hotel in Las Vegas, Teamsters' union boss Jimmy Hoffa was bounced out of his suite to make room for Korshak. He was also the man who ensured that The Godfather movie was made. When producer Robert Evans was threatened that he and his son would be murdered if they tried to make a movie about the Mob, he appealed to Korshak. "One call from Mr K, and suddenly threats turned into smiles, and doors once closed opened with an embrace," Evans wrote in his autobiography. Evans, who became head of Paramount, called Korshak "my godfather and my lifelong protector", and is the best published source on the career of "the uncrowned king of Hollywood". "A nod from Korshak and the Teamsters change management. A nod from Korshak and Santa Anita (race-track) closes. A nod from Korshak, and Madison Square Garden stays open. A nod from Korshak, and Vegas shuts down. A nod from Korshak, and the Dodgers can suddenly play night baseball." Evans went on: "Am I exaggerating? Quite the contrary. In the spirit of confidentiality, it's an underplay." To make The Godfather,

Evans needed the star Al Pacino to play the part of Michael Corleone. But Pacino was under contract to MGM, who would not release him. Evans appealed to Korshak, who made a single phone call to Kirk Kerkorian, the majority stockholder in MGM. Kerkorian was building the new MGM-Grand hotel in Las Vegas at the time. "I asked him if he wanted to finish building his hotel," Korshak later told Evans, explaining the ease with which Pacino had been freed from his MGM contract. "He was the primary link between big business and organised crime," according to retired FBI agent William Roemer, who spent 30 years trying without success to nail him. "His life was one of living in a minefield and never stepping on anything," said Robert Blakey, a member of the special Mafia task force set up by the then-attorney general Robert Kennedy. It was through the research into Korshak that the Kennedy family learned to shun Frank Sinatra. Along with the rest of the Hollywood rat pack, which included in Peter Lawford a Kennedy brother-in-law, Sinatra and Dean Martin had thrown their support behind the John Kennedy candidacy in 1960, the first flush of what is now an almost symbolic relationship between Hollywood and the White House. In 1962, on a trip to California, it was arranged for President Kennedy to stay with Sinatra, who even built a helicopter landing pad and special guest quarters for the

Secret Service. Robert Kennedy, who had already killed Korshak and knew of his links to the Giancana family and other Sinatra keepers, found out the wiretaps of the conversations, and told Kennedy he should not go. Ironically, the social tub was delivered at the very moment that Kennedy was asking the help of the Giancana family with its bid to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro. Korshak owned a chunk of Le Bistro, a celebrated Beverly Hills restaurant, where his deals were done. A regular guest was the superagent and MCA chairman Lew Wasserman, who dismissed a suggestion that Korshak be connected to the Mafia. "He was a very good personal friend, well-respected lawyer, a man of his word and good company," Wasserman said. Only once arrested, on weapons charges in 1931, Korshak was never tried and never convicted. His power was such that he could bring FBI director J. Edgar Hoover to his table at charity events, even as the FBI was trying to wiretap him. He is survived by a wife and two sons, one a painter and the other a Hollywood lawyer, and by a cousin, Lester Korshak, who commented yesterday: "He understood the power of anonymity. He wore power the way an average guy wears a sweatshirt."



Sidney Korshak... represented Reagan and Sinatra

Martin Walker
Sidney Korshak, lawyer, born 1908; died January 20, 1996

Yisrael Eldad

Fiery opponent of the peace process

YISRAEL Eldad, grand old man of the Israeli far right who has died aged 85, was a leader of the Fighters for the Freedom of Israel — more widely remembered as the Stern Gang — the smallest and most ruthless of the underground organisations that fought British and Arabs in the final, bloody years of the Palestine mandate. He remained true to his extremist views all his life and was an active opponent of the peace process with the Palestinians. Eldad, born Yisrael Sheib in Ukraine, escaped from Soviet-occupied Lithuania to Palestine in 1941, along with other followers of the right-wing "revisionist" Zionist leader Vladimir Zhabotinsky. Menachem Begin, later to become head of the Irgun group, and a future Israeli prime minister, was a close colleague. Later Eldad described the shock of encountering the relative serenity of Palestine compared to Europe, where the Nazi extermination of the Jews was beginning.

Sternists wanted to wage a "policy of liberation" against British colonialism but found themselves shunned by a mainstream Zionist movement that still saw Britain as a strategic ally despite severe restrictions on Jewish immigration and land sales — and shunned their conspiratorial, style and terrorist methods. Exploratory contacts with the Nazis about cooperation against the British put them forever beyond the pale. After Avraham Stern, leader of the Irgun, was killed, the gang was gunned down by a British detective in 1942. Eldad — a classical scholar and philosopher with a vitriolic pen and a fiery manner — became the ideologue of the group. Yitzhak Shamir, later to succeed Begin as Israeli prime minister, ran its operations, including the notorious assassination of the Swedish UN mediator, Count Bernadotte, in 1948. The third member of the triumvirate was Natan Yellin-Mor, who subsequently moved to the left to

preach co-existence with the Palestinians. Eldad was out in the cold for almost 30 years, one of a lonely band of fringe ultra-nationalists forced to accept that Israel existed in narrow borders that were far from their grand vision of a reunited Hebrew nation. But the 1976 war changed all that. The capture of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip — Judea and Samaria to the exultant right — literally opened up new horizons. "Greater Israel" became a reality and a small but active settler movement began to prosper under the Labour government of the day. It took another full decade — until 1977 — for electoral reality to catch up with shifting ideology and changes on the ground. After the victory of Begin's new Likud party, settlements went up on lonely West Bank hillsides, a brutal challenge to every Palestinian town and village. Eldad, the man who translated Nietzsche into Hebrew, again became a public figure.



Yisrael Eldad... espoused a messianic Zionism

Labour government of Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated by a right-wing Jew last November. Eldad used his weekly column in the Yediot Aharonot newspaper — the largest circulation Hebrew paper in the land — to attack the peace process, especially during last month's accelerated withdrawal from West Bank towns. He made clear that Rabin's murder — by a young religious fanatic whose single-minded commitment to this is the most dangerous assassination of all — the daily cutting away of the body and the soul.

Jan Black
Yisrael Eldad, extremist politician, born November, 11 1910; died January 22, 1996

Birthdays

Dame Mary Arden, High Court judge, 49; Prof Gillian Brown, phenologist, 59; Gary Burton, vibraphonist, jazz composer, 53; Princess Caroline of Monaco, 39; Prof Alastair Compston, neurologist, 48; Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, 97; Ian Dudgeon, racehorse trainer, 51; Prof David Ford, theologian, 48; Bill Hayden, governor-general of Australia, 63; Rutger Bauer, 56; Jean-Pierre Kéroux, author and publisher, 57; Petr Korda, tennis player, 38; Sir James Lighthill, FRS, mathematician, former Provost, University College, London, 72; Fiona MacCarthy, writer, 56; Jeanne Moreau, actress, 56; Christine Nichols, historian, editor, Hutchinson Encyclopedia manager, 77; Rupert Penry-Paris, former deputy editor of the Economist, 46; Sir Alec Rankin, chairman, Scottish Financial Enterprise and Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, 61; Andy Rashleigh, actor, 47; Ted Rowlands, Labour MP, 56; Jean Wall, Labour MP, 59; Benny Waters, saxophonist, 84; Brian Weight, chief constable, Dorset, 60.

Another Day

January 23, 1985: I am contemplating writing to Ivor Nicholson, cursing his reader. If you told the story of any book in the form of a reader's report, it would sound awful. Reader's report of Henry Fourth, Part One, by Shakespeare: "This is a story of life in London. The plot is improbable and does not carry conviction, as it deals with a Prince of Wales who apparently frequents public houses. There is a fat man named Falstaff... I believe there are two ways of writing novels. One is mine, making the thing a sort of musical comedy without music and ignoring real life altogether; the other is going right down into life and not caring a damn. The ones that care are the ones where the writer loses his nerve and says, 'My God! I can't write this, I must tone it down.' Wodehouse on Wodehouse. Penguin, 1981.

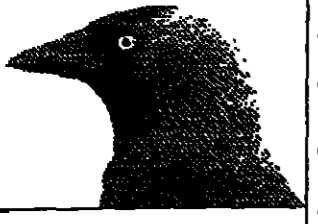
Death Notices

CARROLL, Thomas (Mrs B. Marshall), on 18th January, aged 89. Cremation private. Burial in grave of her late wife in the same grave. St. Peter's Church, London on Sunday 26th January at 11 AM.
HARRIS, John, late of Shell's Hutton University and Hong Kong University of Technology in his 86th year on 19 January. He will be greatly missed. Burial in St. Peter's Church, London on Sunday 26th January at 11 AM. Cremation at 11 AM.
MACKINTOSH, Robert, beloved husband, loving father and grandfather, died peacefully in his 86th year on 19 January 1996 after a short illness. He leaves a devoted wife, three children and six grandchildren. Burial in St. Peter's Church, London on Sunday 26th January at 11 AM. Cremation at 11 AM.

Letter

Rod Prince writes: What an extraordinary claim from the late Patrick Bowles (obituary, January 18) that his fellow

Jackdaw



Glug, glug

IT DON'T know what it is, but it sounds like one of those old rudimentary electronic kind of things. It sounds rather dated, from a particular era. It sounds like it's from the sixties. It's actually an underwater recording of bearded seals. Oh, right! I thought about the whales, it had that sort of quality. The whales I'd know, but the seals I didn't recognise. It sounded to me like people playing with early electronic music but really not composers. In fact they're not composers, which is quite reassuring. It's very sweet actually. It's nice... I remember years ago,

74, when I was in San Diego, miles in the North Atlantic, the speakers wouldn't have withstood the pressure. So we had to calculate what would happen... We did the first live recording of the Sinking Of The Titanic in a disused water tower that had a particularly interesting acoustic ambience. And then we did a performance just after that in a swimming bath in Brussels. We actually played on a raft on the water. Composer Gavin Bryers interviewed in The Wire's Invisible Jukebox section, an intellectual variant on Name That Tune. Thanks to S Hamilton.

Old hand

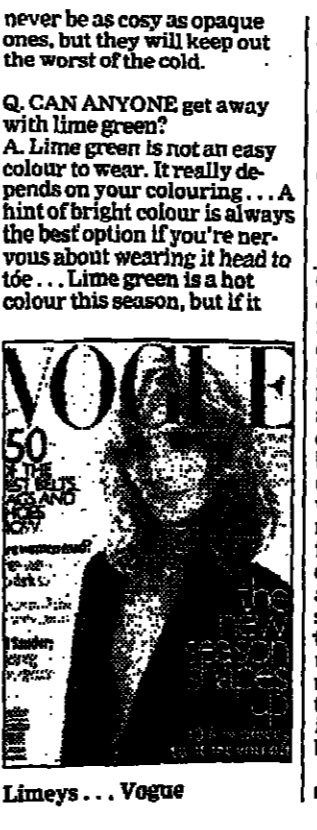
I USED to play in a very good poker game, but they played a lot of crazy games, and it was very expensive. It wasn't one of those games where people work out the odds and then call the bet. It was more like, "Let's stick the money in and then think about it afterwards"... It got bigger and bigger and I did very well out of it. It helped educate my kids. But I then hit a financial rock, professionally; ever-

Winter sun

Q, I REALLY need my sunglasses on a sunny day, but it is naff to wear them in winter? A, It used to be considered pretentious to wear sunglasses in winter, but recently they have become a very necessary accessory, whether worn as a substitute Alice band or as protection for the eyes. With worries about the disappearance of the ozone layer, beauty editors wouldn't go anywhere without their dark glasses to hand. Q, I'M CONFUSED — I thought slingshots were summer shoes but the shops are full of them at the moment. Can I wear tights with slingshots to keep out the cold? A, You can wear tights with slingshots, but the tights must be ultra-sheer and shouldn't have reinforced heels... Opaques simply do not work with slingshots as they block in the heel area that the shoe is designed to expose. Sheer tights will

never be as cosy as opaque ones, but they will keep out the worst of the cold.

Q, CAN ANYONE get away with lime green? A, Lime green is not an easy colour to wear. It really depends on your colouring... A hint of bright colour is always the best option if you're nervous about wearing it head to toe... Lime green is a hot colour this season, but if it doesn't suit you there are other shades — peppermint, pistachio, olive and emerald — from which you should be able to find a shade to suit your colouring. Vogue's Style Counsel dishes out advice for concerned fashion victims. Lit crit OVER THE next few years, overall literacy, in the limited sense of rapid extraction of meaning from sufficiently simplified text (for example, news headlines, advertising and political slogans) can be expected to increase. But by the beginning of the next century, the proportion of the world's population who can read to the end of normal sentences may well be in rapid decline. A century later, the art of reading (as opposed to spotting key words and mentally associating with them) may be confined to the ranks of a leistung elite. Over the same period, the capability for deliberation may join humanity's lost arts. This dispiriting trend is a result of increasing competi-



Limeys... Vogue

tion, both between and within organisations. Fewer and fewer people now shift greater and greater workloads, driven ever faster by competitive anxieties, accentuated by rapid-reaction computer networks. The signs of competitive anxiety can already be observed in the workplace — shrinking attention span, abbreviation of working memory, tip-of-the-head responses, increasing emotionality, weakening of deliberative and rumination thought, and aversion to the written word other than to scan it, annotate it and pass it on. Donald Michie worries about the debilitating effect on literacy and attention spans of the Net and other computer networks in the New Scientist.

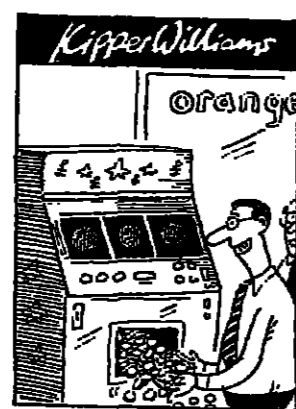
Jackdaw wants your jelsels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 3866; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Dan Glaister

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for the wood



Mobile phones share sale in March

£2.8bn Orange floats slice

Nicholas Barnister
Technology Editor

ORANGE, the mobile phone group which started operations less than two years ago, yesterday announced plans to float at least 25 per cent of the company in a move expected to value the business at around £2.7 billion.

Hans Snook, the group's managing director, said all the money raised by the sale of new shares in March would be used to repay loans from the company's two shareholders, Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace.

He said the issue was mainly one for institutional investors, partly because of the complexity in valuing the



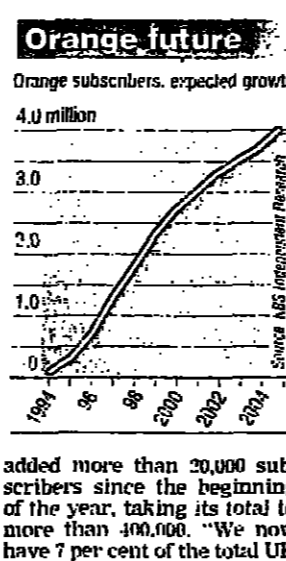
Cocking one... Managing director Hans Snook waves an Orange handset as the company announces flotation plans

£2.8bn Orange floats slice

company, which may not move into the black until 1998. However Orange had decided to include an offer for private investors after monitoring Internet discussion groups and receiving letters from subscribers. Individuals had indicated they did not want to be left out if the company was floated, he said.

A new company called Orange has been formed to become the holding company of Hutchison Telecommunications UK, which owns the Orange mobile phone network, a national paging system and a service provider selling airtime on the Cellnet and Vodafone networks.

Hutchison Whampoa, a large Hong Kong trading group, and BAE, the civil aviation and defence group, will retain their existing shares in



the business. Hutchison at present owns 68.12 per cent and BAE the remaining 31.88 per cent.

Orange hopes the new money it raises will be sufficient to repay the £550 million it has borrowed from its shareholders. It already has sufficient funds to complete the construction of its network, following a recent £1.2 billion debt facility.

Orange, Britain's fourth and latest mobile phone group, uses the same PCN digital standard as Mercury One-2-One. Its larger rivals, Cellnet and Vodafone, have nationwide analogue networks and more recent digital networks based on the European GSM standard, now also being used widely in non-European countries.

Mr Snook said Orange had

Notebook

US fiscal threat to global growth



Edited by Alex Brummer

UNDER more normal circumstances tonight's pre-election State of the Union address in the United States would be the opportunity for an incumbent first-term President to lay out his strategy and spending priorities for the next four years.

Bill Clinton does not have that luxury: he will speak to Congress and the nation as a shackled person forced by the Republicans to scale back the ambitions of his presidency. Indeed, as a result of the current deadlock in budget negotiations his main priority will be keeping the government running beyond February 15 1996, when the Treasury's next \$24.5 billion (£16.3 billion) quarterly interest bill falls due.

The budget uncertainty has caused some short-term anxiety on the financial markets, where the possibility of a US debt default is too horrible to imagine. But this immediate prospect is outweighed by the knowledge that the US's budget arithmetic is changing.

As Mr Clinton's budget chief, Leon Panetta, has acknowledged, the US fiscal stance has changed from one in which the \$300 billion deficit would stretch way into the next century, to one in which the deficit would be totally eliminated by the end of seven years. The Panetta view is that this will cost the Democrats (and whoever may follow them in the White House) up to \$500 billion of future spending authority.

In effect, this means that discretionary spending, the cash left after paying for government debt, inflation and the rising number of people on welfare and social securities, will be squeezed harder every year. As defence has already taken more than its fair share of cuts, further reductions will come from transportation, housing, cleaning up the environment and human resources programmes.

Mr Clinton can promise a great deal in his speech, but the Republicans will no longer let him deliver. Over the longer haul, this means that the shadow of the US budget deficit, which has weakened the credibility of US bonds and the dollar may be removed. Yet the long-term effects of squeezing US fiscal policy so hard could be disastrous not just for American growth but for important trading partners like Britain, where expansion has stalled.

counts — are having to eat their words. This spring's planned stock market flotation is expected to see the repayment of around £200 million of loans which BAE made to Orange and still leaves the company with a stake which could be worth in excess of £700 million.

There is more than Dutch comfort, too, in the news of the troubles at Fokker where Daimler-Benz has refused further financial support. As BAE is quick to acknowledge, Fokker has been a formidable rival in the market for regional jetliners, outselling BAE by a ratio of two-to-one.

But as BAE will be all too well aware, the problems at Fokker are a symptom of the wider difficulties facing the industry. It remains to be seen if they are also part of the solution.

Generation game

THE issue of whether Goldman Sachs would finally shed its private partnership status and go public boiled down to simple mathematics. Although chairman Jon Corzine and the other members of Goldman's executive committee favoured a flotation, they backed off in the face of strong opposition from the firm's younger partners.

Of the some 174 general partners who gathered for an annual meeting outside Manhattan, the younger ones held the balance of power. Some 94 of the 174 partners joined Goldman since 1982. These younger partners have not had the chance to build up their stake in the firm.

Older partners, however, may have amassed stakes worth \$50 million. If Goldman were to fetch two times book value in a public offering that would make \$100 million. A younger partner's stake is more in the range of \$2 million. Hence the deadlock.

With the weekend decision, the issue of going public appears to have been laid to rest for the next three or four years, unless there is a new financial shock. It was, after all, poor results in 1994 and the exodus of partners and their capital, which triggered the debate about Goldman's future in the first place.

The battle for Forte

MAM adds vital stake to Granada's assault

Ian King

MERCURY Asset Management was last night understood to have committed its 14.4 per cent stake in Forte to Granada, thereby making the media and leisure combine odds on favourite to win control of the hotels group.

MAM, which has been heavily criticised for its conduct in the takeover battle, is expected to confirm publicly its support for Granada ahead of the 12pm deadline for the bid this afternoon.

The fund management group's decision, which follows meetings on Friday with Granada chief, Gerry Robinson, and Forte boss, Sir Rocco Forte, is likely to convince a string of other City fund managers to back Mr Robinson.

Several of the Scottish institutions, which have been critical of Sir Rocco's management of Forte in the past, are widely tipped to support Granada. But other institutions, including NatWest Investment Management and, it is

believed, Gartmore, are likely to reject Granada's offer. MAM refused to make any comment officially, although privately, insiders expressed anger at the way the fund management group, and in particular its vice-chairman Carol Galley, have been criticised during the bid.

One senior source said: "The message that we have tried to get across is that we take this process very seriously, and feel that the outside world has focused on the negatives of a decision to understate publicly its intention" for the disposal of Forte's Meriden and exclusive hotels. In his reply, Mr Lang said that if Mr Carlisle had "evidence of improper conduct", he should provide details.

Forte highlighted Granada's U-turn over Meriden, in which it initially said it would "capitalise on the brand, but later said it had 'downplayed' its intentions.

However, Granada said Forte was merely "mischievous", and added it was certain it had done nothing wrong.

Boeing's run of success

against rival Airbus goes on with \$4bn order

Mark Tran in New York

BOEING yesterday clinched another major aircraft order when General Electric's aircraft leasing company, GE Capital Aviation, announced a \$4 billion contract to buy as many as 23 passenger aircraft.

The order includes five 777s, the biggest planes in Boeing's inventory, 20 current models of the 737 and 82 of the next generation of 737s under development. GE Capital Aviation also obtained options for 182 more of the newest 737s.

The massive order from GE Capital Aviation, one of the world's largest aircraft leasing companies, continues a remarkable run of success for Boeing. The Seattle-based company has now won three out of the last four big aircraft orders. Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia, which recently ordered \$4 billion worth of aircraft. Boeing also won a part order with Philippine Airlines, with Airbus getting the rest. Boeing was understandably euphoric at having beaten out Airbus, its arch-rival, yet again this year.

GE Capital Aviation Services said that the agreement will enable the company to buy aircraft across the entire range of the 737 family, one of the best-selling Boeing models. GE Capital will get about 25 planes a year. All the 737s will use engines made by CFM International, a joint venture of General Electric and France's Snecma.

Boeing's 777, which has just started flying, carries more than 350 passengers and is one of the most fuel-efficient planes in the world. But its introduction has been marred by reports over whether the plane has been adequately tested. FAA engine specialists are reportedly worried that the plane could be severely destabilised if a fan blade broke.

The 777 series is key to Boeing's effort to maintain its lead in the global market.

Asda chief makes

£1.8m profit from share option sale

Pauline Springett

ARCHIE Norman, chief executive of supermarket chain Asda, has made a profit of £1.8 million from the sale of part of his holding in the company. The shares had been granted under a share-option scheme at 36p each. Mr Norman sold them at 110p.

Yesterday, Asda issued a further tranche of share options to its top executives, including Mr Norman. He received 791,895 at 111.5p each. They become exercisable on January 23, 1999 and expire on January 21, 2006.

A company spokesman said Mr Norman had been forced to sell his shares last Friday because the share-option rules required the value of his holding should not exceed a certain level. Asda's issue of further options had also been timed so as not to flout share-option rules.

The spokesman said share options were granted to Asda's top executives "because we contrive, over a long

Mercury rises

Highland Distilleries buys stake in Macallan-Glenlivet

Pauline Springett

HIGHLAND Distilleries, maker of Famous Grouse whisky blend, has bought a 26 per cent stake in rival Macallan-Glenlivet for £46.5 million. French distiller Remy Cointreau was the seller.

The sale was hinted at last week when Remy said it was negotiating to dispose of some peripheral businesses to help reduce its debt. That announcement followed an expected \$5 million loss at the half-year stage. Remy said yesterday that the sale of the Macallan stake represented a significant part of this debt reduction programme.

Highland bought 30.6 million shares at 162.5p. That was below Friday's 178p closing share price, analysts said it was quite a full price because the purchase would dilute Highland's earnings.

Macallan is probably best known for its single malt whisky. The Macallan, Brian Ivory, Highland's chief executive, said the strategy was to build a portfolio of premium brands, either owned outright or as a stake, around Famous Grouse. Highland has distributed The Macallan in Britain since 1994, and uses the malt for blending. Although Highland already has a selection of malt whiskies, The Macallan out-sells these with annual worldwide sales of between 150,000 and 175,000 cases.

Mr Ivory said the changing whisky market meant that the purchase of The Macallan stake would give Highland another string to its bow.

Highland sells around 2.25 million cases of Famous Grouse worldwide a year, just over half in Britain. Demand for blended whisky is still fairly static in the mature markets of the US and Europe.

I spy kids' video camera

**Nicholas Barnister
Technology Editor**

MUMS coming up the stairs. Hide get on with the home-work. The ultimate in spy cameras for children is about to hit the market later this year, thinly disguised as a toy.

Tyco Toys, the largest US toy-maker after Hasbro and Mattel, is to launch a video camera costing less than £100, using electronic imaging technology developed by Edinburgh-based Vision Group.

At that price, the camera has its limitations. The ambi-

tions of would-be movie directors are curtailed by the lack of tape in the camera itself. The world they can film is restricted because the camera has to be connected by a lead to either a television or a video recorder. And there is no glorious Technicolor — the picture is black and white.

Children bent on mischief will be able to plug the camera into a bedroom television and then position it strategically outside the door to give warning of approaching parents.

Tyco, which bought the Matchbox diecast cars business three years ago, sells a broad range worldwide, including Sesame Street preschool toys, radio controlled vehicles and View-master 3D viewers.

A spokeswoman said the group would be unveiling the VideoCam at the British International Toy and Hobby Fair in London next week. The camera will go on sale "in time for the Christmas market".

The key technology behind the camera is a microchip developed in the UK by Vision — for videophones, security cameras and industrial control equipment — but made in the Far East.

Vision, listed on stock market last April at 97p a share, yesterday saw its shares close 20p up at 237p.

Energy users seek inquiry into generators' activities

Pauline Springett

LARGE energy users yesterday called for an investigation into the grip of the two big generators on the wholesale electricity market.

The challenger to the dominant position of National Power and PowerGen emerged in the form of a \$315 million gas-fired power station planned by British Gas and Hydro-Electric. Construction of the station, to be owned by joint venture firm Seabank Power, will create 800 jobs at Avonmouth, near Bristol.

The Energy Intensive Users' Group wants the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to extend its investigation into bids for Southern Electric by National Power

Energy users seek inquiry into generators' activities

TOURIST RATES — BANK \$

Australia 1.99	France 7.36	Italy 2.50	Singapore 2.10
Austria 15.15	Germany 2.1750	Malta 0.5375	South Africa 5.37
Belgium 44.50	Greece 364.00	Netherlands 2.4400	Spain 162.50
Canada 1.50	Hong Kong 11.46	New Zealand 2.22	Sweden 10.08
Cyprus 0.0875	India 54.71	Norway 9.54	Switzerland 1.74
Denmark 6.42	Ireland 0.95	Portugal 224.00	Turkey 87.954
Finland 6.72	Israel 4.71	Saudi Arabia 6.57	USA 1.4725

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).



Death Notices

Dan Clabister

Dutch fury as 7,800 workers face lay-offs



Help us please... The notice at the security gate says it all as workers walk past a Fokker 100 model in the foyer at the planemaker's Amsterdam factory yesterday.

Germans pull out of Fokker

Mark Milner European Business Editor THE Dutch government was last night desperately seeking to rescue at least part of Fokker after Daimler-Benz refused to stump up any more money for the ailing aircraft maker.

plants. "We will do everything we can do to see whether there is a possibility with other industrial partners, that parts of Fokker could actually survive," the Dutch Minister of Economic Affairs, Hans Wijers, pledged last night.

package because, while it held only 40 per cent of Fokker's shares, it was being asked to bear all the risk of the rescue operation.

Brutally direct Schrempf puts profits first

Outlook Mark Milner

Daimler-Benz chairman Jürgen Schrempf, yesterday delivered a mission statement which was almost brutal in its directness.

group, much of it linked to transport. Trains, cars and planes, you might say, through, respectively, AEG, Mercedes and an aerospace arm which threatened to become Europe's top gun in the fiercely competitive market for smaller "regional" commercial aircraft.

Daimler has already said that it would like a partner for the small Dornier turbo-prop business and now Fokker has been abandoned to its fate.

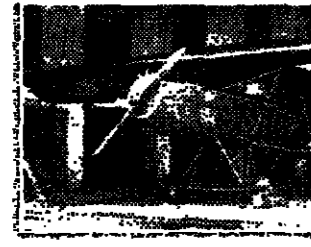
As the European industry evolves on less national lines than hitherto, Dasa may find it has less clout than it seemed to wield even a few months ago.

Fokker facts

- July 21, 1919 Founded by 29-year-old Anthony Fokker in Amsterdam
1919 First Fokker F2 produced
1921 US branch opens
1934 Concentrates on military aircraft
1939 Anthony Fokker dies
Fokker factory destroyed during WW2
1945 Company re-emerges building military training aircraft
1951 Moves to new factory at Schiphol
1958 Re-enters civil aviation market with Fokker Friendship
1968 Dutch government takes stake in Fokker
1993 Daimler-Benz buys a controlling stake
Aug 1995 Fokker announces record first half losses
Jan 1996 Daimler-Benz refuses further financial support



Anthony Fokker



Fokker F2



German steelworkers in Duisburg yesterday carry a mock coffin in protest against an increase from 54 to 57 years in the threshold for early retirement

Kohl tackles jobs crisis

Ian Traynor on the Bonn summit designed to chart escape from rising tide of defeatism

CONFRONTED by soaring unemployment, a battery of troubling economic indicators, and a burgeoning welfare crisis, Chancellor Helmut Kohl today launches a belated attempt to drag Germany out of a downward spiral of sluggishness and pessimism.

The centrepiece of today's meeting is the radical proposal by IG Metall, the giant engineering union, to forego real wage rises from next year in return for the creation of more than 300,000 jobs over the next three years.

Both sides have agreed, however, on pay rates 10 per cent lower than minimum agreed wages for long-term unemployed taken off the dole, while the employers' side has agreed to a 15 per cent VAT rate.

Mirror float inquiry could lead to charges

Don Atkinson

FRESH criminal charges could arise from the government investigation into Robert Maxwell's flotation of Mirror newspapers, the Department of Trade and Industry confirmed yesterday.

berg - which lasted eight months and culminated last week in unanimous not-guilty verdicts - delayed the inspectors' work, which has now resumed.

No let-up in the building gloom

Pauline Springett

THE UK construction industry faces another difficult year made worse by political uncertainty, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

reflects the political uncertainty facing the country over the next few months. The prospect of a hung Parliament - and a Government with limited room for manoeuvre - will not help our industry and can only exacerbate the economic situation.

News in brief

Toyota to export outside the EU

TOYOTA will this year start to export vehicles produced at its Burnaston plant in Derbyshire to outside the European Union area, the company announced yesterday.

USAir back in the black

USAir, British Airways' struggling American partner, reversed a six-year run of losses yesterday when it reported a \$119.3 million (\$75.5 million) profit for 1995.

Menzies profits slump

JOHN Menzies, the newspaper wholesaler and retail chain, yesterday unveiled a 48 per cent slump in half-year pre-tax profits at \$2.8 million.

'Banks rob savers of billions'

BANKS have robbed savers of billions of pounds over the past 10 years, according to the Bradford & Bingley Building Society. It says that savers would be \$24 billion worse off since 1986 if they had put their money into banks instead of building societies.

NatWest SAFETY NOTICE
As part of a promotion, sticks of rock have been given out by some of our Branches. The rock is pink, green and yellow striped and has 'NATWEST' written through the centre.
Due to a remote possibility that some sticks of rock could be contaminated with metal fragments, as a precaution we are advising that this product should not be consumed, and should be destroyed or returned to the nearest NatWest branch.
For further information call our Customer ServiceLine on 0800 505050. (Monday to Friday 8.00am to 8.00pm. Saturday 8.00am to 4.00pm).
National Westminster Bank Plc 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

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back in the black
Profits slump
rob savers of billions

Rugby League

Dream team dreams on

Paul Fitzpatrick

PROMISE you one thing," said Alex Murphy, Warrington's new football executive. "John Dorahy will come back to haunt Wigan." Murphy must hope that those words do not come back to haunt him.

Dorahy, a fine stand-off with Hull KR in the Eighties, was the man sacked as coach by Wigan only hours after he had led the side to victory over Leeds in the Challenge Cup final of 1994.

That was the fifth successive season the club had achieved the league and cup double. But it was not enough to save the Australian. His fate had already been decided by the Wigan board.

Now Dorahy is back, not a million miles from Central Park, as head coach at Widdersley. He represents one half of a "dream team" in whom Warrington have invested their Super League hopes after the resignation of Brian Johnson this month.

The Wigan chapter, one of the "sour" points of his career, is now history so far as Dorahy is concerned. It was, he said, his aim to create at Warrington the sort of level playing field he had achieved at Wigan, with every player at the club hav-



Risky caper... Samantha Brewster on Heath's Insured and the route she took round the Horn. PHOTOGRAPH: PETER BENTLEY

Brewster has Southern cross to bear

Bob Fisher

SAMANTHA Brewster rounded Cape Horn, the first of the markers in her attempt to sail non-stop around the world from east to west, early yesterday morning.

She was 10 days out from the Brazilian port of Santos, where she had been forced to stop for repairs to the mast of her 67ft steel yacht *Heath's Insured*.

In a message to her shore base she said: "Having rounded the Horn it feels like I have only just started. It's as if from October 29 to now has been the 10-minute gun to the starting gun. The race has only just begun."

There will be none of the controversy that surrounded Lisa Clayton's recent round-the-world voyage: Brewster's route, which has been replanned and will take her back to Santos via Ushant, has been carefully monitored by the World Sailing Speed Record Council from the outset.

In a radio-telephone call when she was 50 miles from the rocky outcrop at the bottom of South America she

Short cut around the world

Samantha Brewster has sailed through Le Maire Strait saving a day in her attempt to beat Mike Golding's 181 day westward circumnavigation.



Brewster's latest position: heading out into the Pacific

Racing

1,835-1 treble takes Maguire to half-century

Ken Olliver

ADRIAN MAGUIRE reached his half-century in spectacular style at Warwick yesterday when riding a 1,835-1 treble. He moved onto the 50 mark when Diamond Fort landed the Agincourt Handicap Chase to give John McConnachie his first training success of the season.

Maguire had waited patiently before sending the doughty stayer past Distinctive to score by three and a half lengths. "Adrian rode this season last as a winner. I don't think he's had a rider for me before. He's done it perfectly," said McConnachie.

Maguire set the ball rolling when Chocobar, watched by 95-year-old owner, Brigadier Roscoe Harvey, came good in the Grey Juvenile Novice Hurdle.

Equipped with blinkers for the first time, the gelding easily beat Hamilton Silk to make amends for a disappointing effort at Sandown last week.

Maguire rounded off the day with victory on the 33-1 shot Rainham in the Waterloo Handicap Hurdle. "He's not had Adrian Maguire is he?" joked winning trainer Ginger McCallin. "This horse needs to be ridden by a better bit after two falls."

Maguire could well repeat the treble feat at Leicester today with Boss's Bank, Roffe and Twice A Night. All three are trained by David Nicholson, who should also be in the target at Market Rasen with Hatched Boy.

Boss's Bank (1.00), a winner of both his bumper races, can make a successful start to his hurdling career in the first division of the Croxton Park Novice Hurdle.

The second division of the novice hurdle will not take a

Tomlinson moves to Bulls

BRADFORD BULLS have signed Bradley's highly rated scrum-half Glen Tomlinson in a deal which takes three Bradford players to Batley, writes Paul Fitzpatrick.

The 25-year-old Australian has been with Batley since 1991 and has been a target for several leading clubs.

Phil Hardwick, Dave Turpin and Roger Simpson go to Batley on a similar adjustment.

Adrian Hadley, the Wales winger, was last night released from his contract with Widnes and may return to rugby union. He was listed at £35,000 in November but walked out on Widnes, saying they owed him contract payments.

Leicester with form for the Jackpot races

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SPORTS NEWS 15

Cricket

Now angry Reeve breaks silence of the sheepish

David Hopps

AS ENGLAND'S players made a world-weary return to Heathrow early this morning, they were unlikely to find immediate solace in a campaign for free speech. After a wretched finale to their tour of South Africa they might have preferred to take refuge in an enforced silence, leaving Raymond Illingworth to fume and fulminate in the accepted manner.

When the hurt diminishes, however, England's players will recognise that the Professional Cricketers' Association's pressure for more freedom of expression is long overdue. Their surrender in the one-day series against South Africa has been nothing compared with their meek acceptance, year upon year, of the Test and County Cricket Board's restrictions on their right to a basic human right.

The latest player to risk the TCCB's wrath is Dermot Reeve, who yesterday announced himself "angry and bewildered" to have been omitted from England's World Cup party. If Reeve ever found a bustle he would place his light on top of it, and he had the wherewithal to express an honest opinion in what should be viewed as an acceptable manner.

"I played just twice, bowling 19 overs and facing 18 balls," he said. "I don't think I've been given too much opportunity. It was very difficult coming here having not played any cricket since the end of last summer. I have been slightly rusty and you can't find form when you play in just two games."



Illingworth... bullying



Reeve... bewildered

Devon Malcolm's extraordinary outburst over Illingworth's allegedly bullying manner will be punished in any event. By not clearing his article with the tour management (and that, not surprisingly, meant Illingworth himself), he has breached his contract. But the PCA will contend that Malcolm's inability to defend himself in print immediately after he had been decried as "a cricketering nonentity" and a fast bowler "with no brain" ensured that what might have been a temporary dispute degenerated into a permanent feud.

Illingworth had sought before the tour to implement a total ban on players' media work during the tour, a move which would virtually have installed him as the perpetual fount of all wisdom. He was forced to back down after pressure from several players' agents and newspaper groups. Trying to explain their failures might have done them some good.

Rugby Union

Twickenham points finger at Dourthe

Frank Keating

TONY HALLETT, the Rugby Football Union secretary, yesterday complained officially to the French Rugby Federation about the alleged stamping on the head of Ben Clarke, England's No. 8 and pack leader, by France's young centre Richard Dourthe during the first half of Saturday's international in Paris.

best chance of the match went begging — after Jon Sleight-boime and Will Carling had set up the possibility of a try, only for Rory Underwood's pass to Mike Catt to go to ground.

Tennis

Scud falls to earth

David Irvine in Melbourne

EVERYTHING Mark Philippoussis touched turned to gold when he ambushed the top seed Pete Sampras in three near-flawless sets under the Flinders Park stadium roof at the Australian Open on Saturday night. A star had been born; a shooting star as it proved to be, because the 19-year-old burned up and lost 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 to his fellow Australian Mark Woodforde in the fourth round yesterday.

At the second time of asking, however, he made no mistake. He had achieved with subtlety and variety what Sampras had failed to do with raw pace. "But don't feel sorry for Mark," said Woodforde. "He will learn a lot from today. And he will be a better player for it."

Woodforde's tactics, built on years of experience and a career in which his victims have included John McEnroe in his prime, brought the young Scud crashing to earth far more easily than did any Patriot in the Gulf War.

Philippoussis recognised that he had been outsmarted. "Mark showed me today that experience is the key." And he might also have noted that Woodforde was never intimidated by a serve that, though peaking at 132mph, was broken seven times.

It was an experience reminiscent of Mary Pierce's in the closing stages of the French Open in 1994. There, after crushing Steffi Graf 6-2, 6-2 in the semi-finals, she could do almost nothing right in the title match against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Woodforde now takes on Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, who, after a tight first set against Italy's Renzo Furlan, struck a purple patch to win 14 consecutive games and the match 7-5, 6-0, 6-3. Philippoussis, meanwhile, will go to Bollettieri's camp to work on his tennis education and an extremely dodgy forehead.

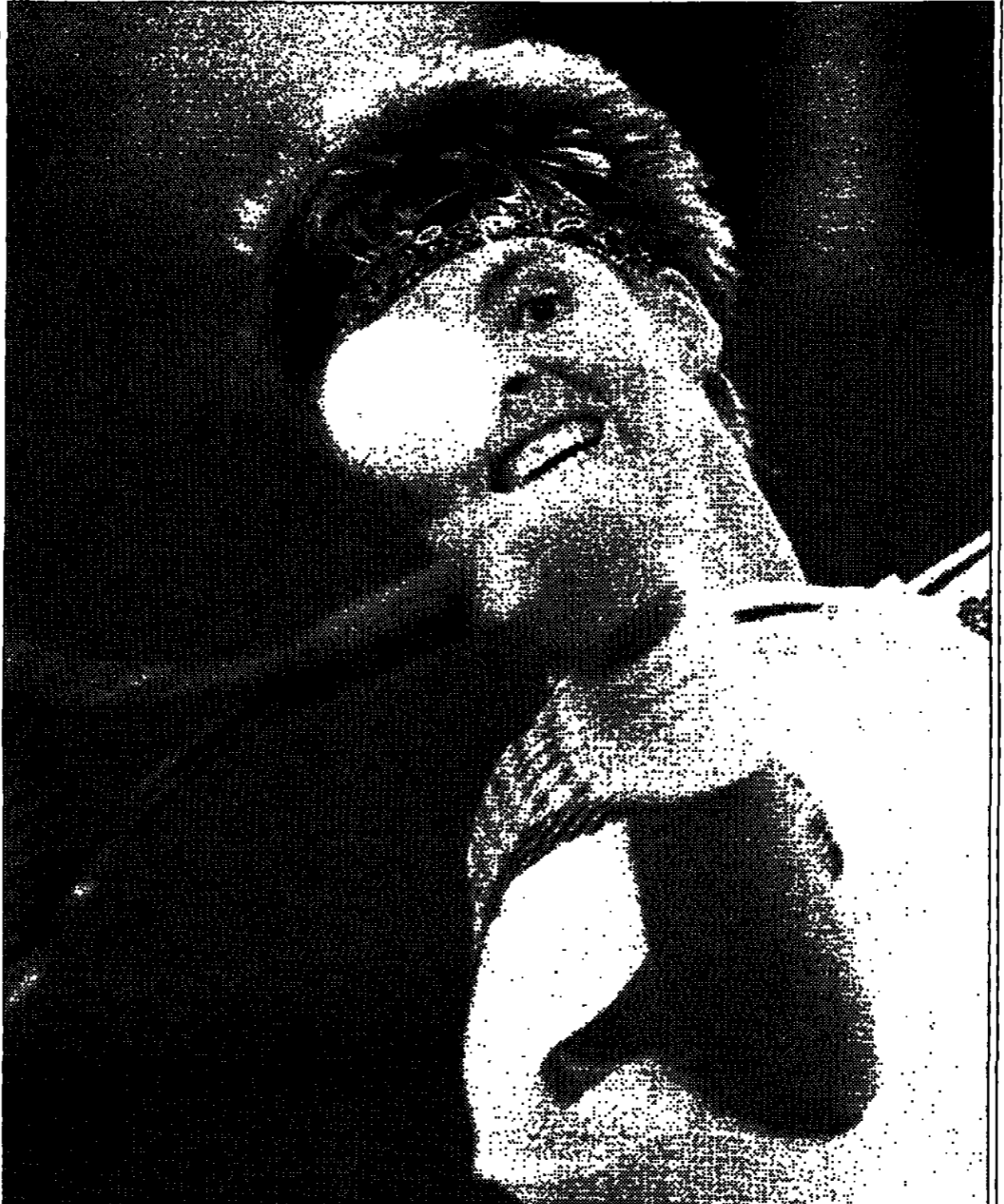
Woodforde has no real expectations of taking the title. But Yevgeny Kafelnikov has, as he made clear after roasting the unseeded American Mali'vai Washington 6-3, 6-2, 6-4, when he said he had the game and confidence to become champion now that Sampras, the one player he feared, had gone.

So far the 21-year-old Russian has had a trouble-free run, dropping only one set, but he will be tested more severely by Boris Becker tomorrow after the German found inspired form in recovering to beat New Zealand's Brett Steven 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

When the big guys slam it down, Scud [a fitting nickname] just loves it," Woodforde said. "But he doesn't like changes of pace. What he hasn't learned yet is how to change his game when things aren't going well. And he only did that when he was 5-0 down in the third."

Though slow and uncertain for the first hour, by which time he was set and a break down, Becker then won seven games at a cost of only four points to snatch the initiative. Becker met Kafelnikov three times last year, taking a 2-1 lead when he overcame the Russian in Frankfurt.

A disappointing first day for Britain in the boys' singles, which began with a 6-1, 6-4 defeat for the second seed Martin Lee, from Worthing, was redeemed by the No. 12 Janas at Trotman, from Ipswich, who beat the Australian Sayed Akram Zaman 6-3, 6-3.



Swiss rolled... Brenda Schultz-McCarthy is stretched to breaking point by Martina Hingis

Hingis' humour has sharp edge as she cuts path to the last eight

TENNIS is a serious business but at 15 it is still fun to Martina Hingis. With a broad smile on her face she served underarm to Brenda Schultz-McCarthy during the first set on her way to becoming the youngest quarter-finalist since Jennifer Capriati at the Australian Open yesterday, writes David Irvine.

Not that it did the No. 11 seed much good. She was trounced 6-1, 6-4 in just 99 minutes by the talented Swiss miss who made only four unforced errors to her opponent's 34. Schultz-McCarthy was cut apart by the

precision of Hingis's passing shots. Although Hingis's underarm tactic failed to win her the point she was leading 5-1 in the first set and she explained afterwards: "She [Schultz-McCarthy] was standing maybe three metres behind the baseline, so it was fun."

Her next opponent is South Africa's Amanda Coetzer, a 6-3, 6-3 winner against Elena Likhovtseva, who had beaten last year's champion Mary Pierce.

Ice Hockey

Trouble in Panthers' den

Vic Batchelder

THE point Nottingham Panthers thought they had saved when Paul Adey equalised 35 seconds from the end of their Sunday-night home game with Fife Flyers may have called for reports into crowd trouble at the end of what had been a very ordinary encounter.

Dempster confirmed that he had asked for reports from the referee and other officials at the game. Visiting sides have had problems with the crowd at Nottingham in the past when making their way to and from the dressing rooms, and Dempster added: "We were given an assurance it would not happen again."

Hockey

Britain at their best to beat Belarus

Pat Rowley in Barcelona

THREE goals in 15 minutes set up Britain's 4-1 defeat of Belarus at the Olympic qualifying tournament here yesterday. The victory, their first here, took them up to third place behind Spain and Holland, their next two opponents after today's rest day.

Jon Wyatt scored the first after Nick Thompson's shot had been blocked, and Calan Giles found the bottom corner from the next. Thompson added the third, and much later, the fourth after Guennad Ribkovski had converted a corner for Belarus.

Belarus are probably the weakest team here, but Britain's win is the biggest so far in the tournament against an awkward, even somewhat agricultural side.

Belarus, generally intent on defending, forced three corners and reduced the arrears from the last one, but Thompson quickly cancelled it out with a clever lob after an interchange of passes with his namesake Rob.

Sport in brief

Golf

The winner of the Open Championship at Royal Lytham from July 18-21 will receive 60 per cent more than John Daly earned when he triumphed at St Andrews last year. An increase of £75,000 lifts the top prize to £200,000. Total prize-money is increased to £1.4 million but only the top seven finishers will benefit.

training in Sydney to escape the English winter, will race at meetings in Adelaide on Friday and Perth on Sunday. Christy, the Olympic 100 metres champion, is anxious to test how well his training has gone in Australia.

second driver will be named soon from five candidates, including Lamy's current Italian partner Luca Badoer.

Phil Whitlock, the former England captain, is to retire from the Professional Squash Association Tour after 10 years on the circuit. Whitlock, who has played in more than 120 tournaments, wants to cut down on his travelling

to spend more time with his family.

title against Neville Brown, the British middleweight champion, on March 9 in Millstreet, Cork.

Wales emphasis on youth may keep Davies out of side

David Plummer

JONATHAN DAVIES will leave today whether he has been recalled to the Wales squad 10 weeks after his return from rugby league and seven years after he last played for his country.

again. "I would love to play for Wales but I have not had much games since leaving Warrington and I am not being chosen by Cardiff at outside-half," he said.

He is still something of an outsider at Cardiff. Money dictated that he played for them rather than his native Llanelli, but even in the cup run against Penarth last Saturday he was missed out more than he was passed to and there were ironic cheers when he finally got on the scoreboard by converting the game's final try.

Bowling will today announce a 32-man squad to prepare for the Five Nations, but he will wait until after a weekend training camp before choosing the team for Twickenham.

Few changes are expected from the side that beat Italy last week, but the outside-half position will come under the microscope. Nigel Davies is fit again inside-centre but there was concern at a lack of balance in the second row and a dearth of line-out options in the back row.

Jonathan Davies, who is employed by the Welsh Rugby Union on a part-time basis as a development officer, is keen to play international rugby

Arsenal put nine on sale to buy

Thomas

A

Pools Forecast

Table with multiple columns and rows of text, likely a betting forecast or pool results.

The haunting of Wigan, page 13

England jobs for the boys, page 14

More trouble for Illingworth, page 15

French check stamping claims, page 15

SportsGuardian

UNITED STAY IN PURSUIT OF THE PREMIERSHIP TITLE

West Ham United 0, Manchester United 1

New Cantona is scorer and peacemaker

David Lacey

A YEAR to the week after the kung-fu kick that earned Eric Cantona an infamous place in football history, the Frenchman found himself playing peacemaker after scoring a vital goal that stiffened Manchester United's pursuit of Newcastle United at the top of the Premier League.

His placatory influence appeared in the angry scenes when Butt was sent off six minutes from time after a scything foul on Dicks, his second bookable offence. Trailing Newcastle by 12 points, Alex Ferguson's team needed to get their act together if second place was not to become Liverpool's preserve. West Ham had won only once in six league games and lost the other five, a slump which had dragged them back into trouble, but Manchester United had secured only two victories in nine.

Within two minutes Ferguson's players were experiencing some familiarly anxious vibes. The Manchester United manager might have abandoned the experiment with three centre-backs so ruthlessly exposed by Sunderland in the FA Cup, but his defence was still lacking Fallister and was by no means secure.

West Ham could and should have gone ahead in the second minute. Bruce misread an enormous clearance from Miklosko, allowing Cotte to hit the ball sweetly as it dropped. Unfortunately for West Ham his shot hit the underside of the bar.

The corner that followed produced confident but unneeded claims for hazardball against Cantona which did nothing to alleviate Mancunian feelings of unease. In attack, however, the picture was rather different.

The alacrity with which Giggs began taking the ball past defenders and the space Manchester United's movements usually created once they had crossed the halfway line suggested that they were just as likely to take an early lead, and so it proved.

In the eighth minute came a marvellous piece of impudence by Giggs, who flicked the ball past Dicks as he turned West Ham on the right and left the defence exposed. He then exchanged passes with Cole before driving the ball low across goal. A stretching Sharpe could not reach it at the far post but behind him was Cantona, who threaded the ball through a needle's eye to score.

West Ham offered a brisk and imaginative response. A shot from Williamson cannoned off Schmeichel's knee at the near post after a canny centre from Dicks had dropped over Phil Neville's head at left-back, assuring Upton Park of sustained excitement if not necessarily a home victory.

With neither side inclined to press up into midfield and both spreading their wings there was usually plenty of space between the penalty areas. Creative players of the quality of Giggs, Cantona and Moncur will always prosper when the football is allowed to breathe.

With Butt and Keane steadily gaining a grip of the central areas, Manchester United started to control the tempo and pattern of the football and should have increased their lead before half-time.

It was a year to the day since Cole had started his first match at Old Trafford, following a £7 million transfer from Newcastle, by missing a sitter against Blackburn. Last night, just past the half-hour, he marked the anniversary in similar fashion.

Cantona's impeccable touch appeared to have set up Butt for a shot but the ball arrived at the feet of Cole, who promptly hoisted it over the bar. A little earlier Sharpe, another beneficiary of Cantona's skills, placed a free header into the West Ham net only to find the goal disallowed for a rather less obvious handling offence by the Frenchman than had been overlooked at the other end.

The second half found West Ham in a more subdued mood and their opponents ominously relaxed. Manchester United were now concentrating more on getting men behind the ball when they lost possession, which meant that West Ham were more likely to run out of space before they could get within range.

After Butt's dismissal West Ham attacked furiously and it took a fine reflex save by Schmeichel to deny Dowie's close-range snap shot five minutes from the end.



Anfield connection... Stan Collymore (left) and Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool pair who were called up late to the England training squad at Bisham, talk tactics yesterday. David Lacey reports, page 14

New demon sitting on Damon's tail

Richard Williams

IF I were Damon Hill, I would be feeling pretty nervous about the news that Michael Schumacher has signed yet another sponsorship deal, just in time for the new Formula One season. This is not a matter of financial envy, you understand, although the latest increment to Schumacher's income will apparently make him the third-highest paid sportsman in the world. The money is not the problem. What should be keeping Hill awake at nights is the fact that the man standing between him and the world championship has aligned himself with Nike.

It is now almost a quarter of a century since Phil Knight, Nike's founder, paid an American middle-distance runner called Steve Prefontaine about £3,000 to wear his new company's running shoes. Then came John McEnroe, who established the Nike preference for sportsmen with attitude.

In terms of shifting units, the key deal was cut in 1985 when Michael Jordan signed a contract worth £12 million over seven years, plus a five per cent royalty on the net wholesale price of every pair of Nike Air Jordans sold. Nike sold something like \$4 billion of gear around the world last year, its customers motivated by an image cunningly developed to stress the link between running shoes and the qualities of aggression and confidence. The athletes most closely associated with the Nike philosophy are McEnroe and Andre Agassi, men whose extreme behaviour was ruthlessly exploited to enhance their marketing value.

So precisely has the company tuned itself in to the zeitgeist that three years ago its chief copywriter was named by Newsweek magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in America.

IN BRITAIN, Ian Wright and Eric Cantona are featured in its campaigns, not all of which are pleasing to the Corinthian spirit. Was there ever a more repellent poster than the one featuring Wright under the headline "Gary Who"? Fortunately, no sooner had it been plastered all over London than Wright

began the job of failing to live up to the copywriter's promise, proving beyond doubt his inability to match Gary Lineker's achievements in the England team. If there was a more coarsely insulting effort, it must have been the notorious Cantona advertisement: "1996 was a great year for English football. Eric was born." Funny, certainly, but somewhat demarcating too.

Hubris has often seemed to be the downfall of Nike performers. Carl Lewis, Michael Johnson and Sergei Bubka had their images plastered all over Barcelona during the 1992 Olympics only to devise various methods of failing. A year later Quincy Watts, attempting to add the 400 metres world championship to his Olympic title, suffered the most ironic of disasters when his Nike shoe disintegrated on the Stuttgart track. But what the case of Cantona proves is that Nike's copywriters are chillingly capable of turning catastrophe to their own advantage, and that the performer's personality has been defined clearly enough that the actual result no longer matters.

So potent is this corporate culture that it can turn an athlete into a rebel by association; even a patently nice guy like Pete Sampras, whose manners would not have been out of place at an All England of Fred Perry and Kitty Godfree, had his image adjusted by his membership of the Nike club. And when they use Beat Generation veterans like Dennis Hopper or William Burroughs to advertise running shoes, you can't help but smile.

SCHUMACHER has signed a four-year deal, said to be worth about £2 million a year. Added to the £17 million he is being paid (by Marlboro) to drive the car this year, and the £9 million or so from other sponsors, this will lift him from ninth place in Forbes magazine's 1995 chart of sport's top earners to third place in the coming year's standings, behind Jordan and Mike Tyson, respectively the recipients of £30 million and £27 million in 1995, and looking at an even more prosperous '96.

The surprise is that it has taken Schumacher so long to join in. He and Nike are natural partners. After all, what do you suppose he was saying to himself at Adelaide in 1994 when he hit the wall and veered back into the centre of the track to clout Hill out of the title race? Simple: "Just do it!" Now watch out for "Damon Who?" A dash of fake controversy — just what motor racing needs...

Keegan offers £6.8m for Asprilla

Ian Ross

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA, Colombia's brilliant World Cup striker, still interests Newcastle. Kevin Keegan, determined to lift the Premiership title this season, is offering almost £7 million for the 26-year-old whose Italian club Parma rejected United's £6 million bid three months ago.

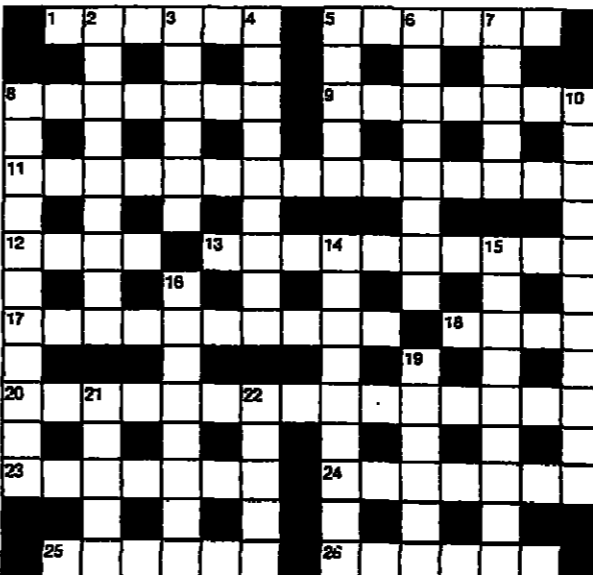
Newcastle's French international David Ginola begins a three-match suspension shortly, and Asprilla is known to be interested in English football. He almost joined Leeds United for £4.2 million this season. After discussing his £10 million budget with his chairman Sir John Hall, Keegan told Parma that the offer was now £6.8 million. He is also hoping to sign Blackburn Rovers' combative England midfielder David Batty, who was dropped at the weekend. Blackburn want £4.5 million but Keegan values him at no more than £3 million.

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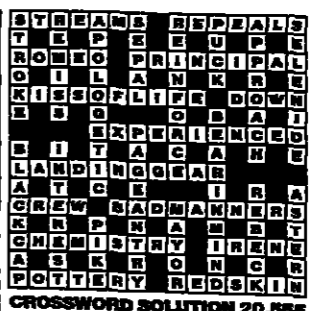
Guardian Crossword No 20,556

Set by Hendra



- Across**
- 1 Recluse shuns society that makes vinegar (9)
 - 5 Coyup caught and trained to amuse (6)
 - 8 Saloon declines a red-haired person (7)
 - 9 Slatern has to walk to work (7)
 - 11 Roughly patch up one shirt for the old man (15)
 - 12 Symbol of eternal life taken from Tutankhamen (4)
 - 13 Ticker-tape instrument (10)
 - 17 Man's crisis, it turns out, is in his own vanity (10)
 - 18 Scrap is mostly surplus (4)
 - 20 Tense notable in attendance (8,7)
 - 23 Resort of Capri so flat? (7)
 - 24 Living close to the ground — English poker, eating anything left (as starters) (7)

- Down**
- 2 Custos completed by Pintar? (9)
 - 3 Bears in Scotland seen in entrance to Treasachs caves (5)
 - 4 A method in sheds for the Robinsons, say? (9)
 - 5 Group in boat heaving to, etc.? (5)
 - 6 Treble, possibly, in the stalls? (8)
 - 7 Little growth indicated by college president (5)
 - 8 Having spilled paint, chap is in Ahab's office (11)
 - 10 Pat a bit short — on trial, perhaps, after the wedding (11)
 - 14 Said paper-shredder is to leave no trace (8)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,556

- 15 Substitute for soldiers here (9)
- 16 Maze attendant only neat at the front? (8)
- 19 Disavowal of Ulster in trade (5)
- 21 Kate Hardcastle's bad posture? (5)
- 22 Is one struck in the ear? (5)

Solution tomorrow

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Nothing more acutely represents the antithesis of the free market than the honours system — or that prize element of it that yields a "front-loaded" change title change — the Barons, Knights and Dames...

Jon Snow

The 21st year

Guardian 2

Harriet

For £3.9bn end for hotels dynasty

T

Marriage of g

Inside